

Hartford Courant

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West Indian Independence Celebration to reconfigure

Hartford officials say it's now too large to accommodate

By **Seamus McAvoy**
Hartford Courant

Since 1962, the second Saturday of August would see thousands gather in Hartford to celebrate West Indian independence.

Festivities in recent years included a parade down Main Street, replete with music, floats and colorful costumes, that finished in Bushnell Park for a concert to cap off a week of celebration.

But as city officials work to manage a busier summer calendar and a staff-

ing shortage among police officers, the parade and festival combined event is now larger than the city has the resources to accommodate, according to Thea Montanez, Hartford's chief operating officer.

With 60 years of history at stake, organizers were taken aback.

"The other 364 days a year, I assimilate with the American experience," said Desmond Sinclair, president of the celebration's organizing committee. "Now I just want one day out of the year to remember my culture, where

I'm from and what we do. And this is the impediment that we get."

"The frustration is that we don't believe we're respected in the sense where we get what we deserve," Sinclair added. "We are citizens, and we vote, but we don't lobby for this or that, so we are neglected."

Shirley Surgeon, a Hartford city council member who was born in Jamaica and came to the United States as a teenager, said it was "very painful"

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Dancers from the Caribbean American Dance Company perform for the crowd in 2019 during the 57th Greater Hartford West Indian Independence parade in downtown Hartford. **COURANT FILE PHOTO**



One of the various floods that have damaged the state police shooting range in Simsbury. **STATE OF CONNECTICUT**

OPIOIDS IN CONNECTICUT

Overdose deaths top 1,300 in '21

Will \$300 million in settlement money help save lives?

By **Steve Hamm**
Connecticut Health I-Team

When three 13-year-old boys were sickened by the powerful synthetic opioid fentanyl at a Hartford middle school on Jan. 13, it was a shocking reminder of the human toll of the opioid crisis. One of the boys later died and a sweep of the school surfaced 40 small plastic bags of the drug.

Later that same day, dozens of people spoke out against a proposal to locate a methadone clinic on a commercial street on the New Haven-Hamden border.

During the ongoing battle with COVID-19, there seems to be less attention being paid to opioid addiction, advocates say. But now these two events put opioids and opioid use disorder back in the spotlight. Deaths from opioid overdose in Connecticut have increased nearly 40% over the past three years, hitting 1,356 through the first 11 months of 2021 and, police say, the state is flooded with ever-more-powerful synthetic opioids.

The incidents Jan. 13 illustrate two stubborn facts of the war on opioids:

■ The increase in overdoses indicates that the state isn't winning.

■ It's difficult to get the most effective treatments for opioid use disorder to the people who need them.

Programs including methadone and buprenorphine are most effective for people who are diagnosed with having moderate to severe opioid use disorder, according to numerous academic studies, including one published in February 2020 by the Journal of the American Medical Association. Yet people overwhelmingly end up enrolled in abstinence and detoxification programs, even though they're effective in only 10% to 15% of the cases. Addiction experts believe stigma and barriers to access deter many from receiving life-saving medications.

While Connecticut has implemented a wide range of responses to opioids, an array of people and groups are now calling for a fundamental rethinking of how to address the condition. They include parents of people who died from overdoses, addiction medicine experts, and leaders of treatment programs.

"We need big changes. Incremental changes haven't been enough," said Fiona

Turn to Opioids, Page 3

MOVING TARGET

Simsbury resident, local leaders want state police shooting range somewhere other than their town

By **Don Stacom**
Hartford Courant

At least one prominent Simsbury resident is working to reverse the state's decision to improve the frequently flooded police shooting range in town rather than build a new one elsewhere.

Bob Patricelli, a former president of Cigna's health care group, is trying to build community awareness that Connecticut taxpayers could end up spending more than \$10 million to put the range's buildings on stilts to protect against future flooding.

"It's the wrong plan in the wrong place," Patricelli said Monday. "This is not a NIMBY issue, it's a matter of getting the state police the kind of training facility they need."

Selectmen are expected to take up the issue at a meeting this month, and Patricelli is hoping a vote condemning the idea would help the case for Connecticut to find a different location altogether.

First Selectman Wendy Mackstutis said the selectmen have all been receptive to signing a letter against the plan; a copy will go to Gov. Ned Lamont.

"From the town's perspective, the question is 'Is it good

Turn to Range, Page 2



The Connecticut State Police shooting range in Simsbury is scheduled for improvements to prevent flooding. **COURANT FILE PHOTO**

"From the town's perspective, the question is 'Is it good to have it there?' We think it negatively impacts residents, businesses and the environment."

— First Selectman Wendy Mackstutis



Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia addresses the U.N. Security Council on Monday over the standoff over Ukraine between U.S. and NATO allies and Moscow. **RICHARD DREW/AP**

Day of tension at UN over Ukraine

US, Russia envoys trade harsh words in Security Council

By **Edith M. Lederer**
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Russia accused the West on Monday of "whipping up tensions" over Ukraine and said the U.S. had

brought "pure Nazis" to power in Kyiv as the U.N. Security Council held a stormy and bellicose debate on Moscow's troop buildup near its southern neighbor.

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield shot back that Russia's growing military force of more than 100,000 troops along Ukraine's borders was "the largest mobilization" in Europe in decades, adding that

there has been a spike in cyberattacks and Russian disinformation.

"And they are attempting, without any factual basis, to paint Ukraine and Western countries as the aggressors to fabricate a pretext for attack," she said.

The harsh exchanges in the Security Council came as Moscow lost an attempt to block the meeting and reflected the

gulf between the two nuclear powers. It was the first open session where all protagonists in the Ukraine crisis spoke publicly, even though the U.N.'s most powerful body took no action.

Although more high-level diplomacy is expected this week, talks between the U.S. and Russia have so far failed to ease

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Detectives suspended; supervisor retires

Two Bridgeport detectives have been placed on leave following allegations they mishandled investigations into the deaths of two Black women in December. **CONNECTICUT, PAGE 1**

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FROM PAGE ONE



The Connecticut State Police Firearms Training Unit, shown in this merged panoramic photo relative to adjacent fields, is slated for expansion. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

Range

from Page 1

to have it there?” We think it negatively impacts residents, businesses and the environment,” Mackstutis said.

Some opponents of the plan fear that discarded shell casings are a pollution risk to groundwater and the nearby Farmington River, which has flooded the range’s buildings more than a half-dozen times in the past decade.

“And you can hear the sounds of guns throughout the town, even at one of the elementary schools,” she said.

Connecticut’s bond commission last spring authorized \$2 million to design improvements for the range, which was built before zoning and has been unpopular with neighbors for decades.

The chief complaint has been the noise from troopers’ shooting practice, which can include automatic weapons fire.

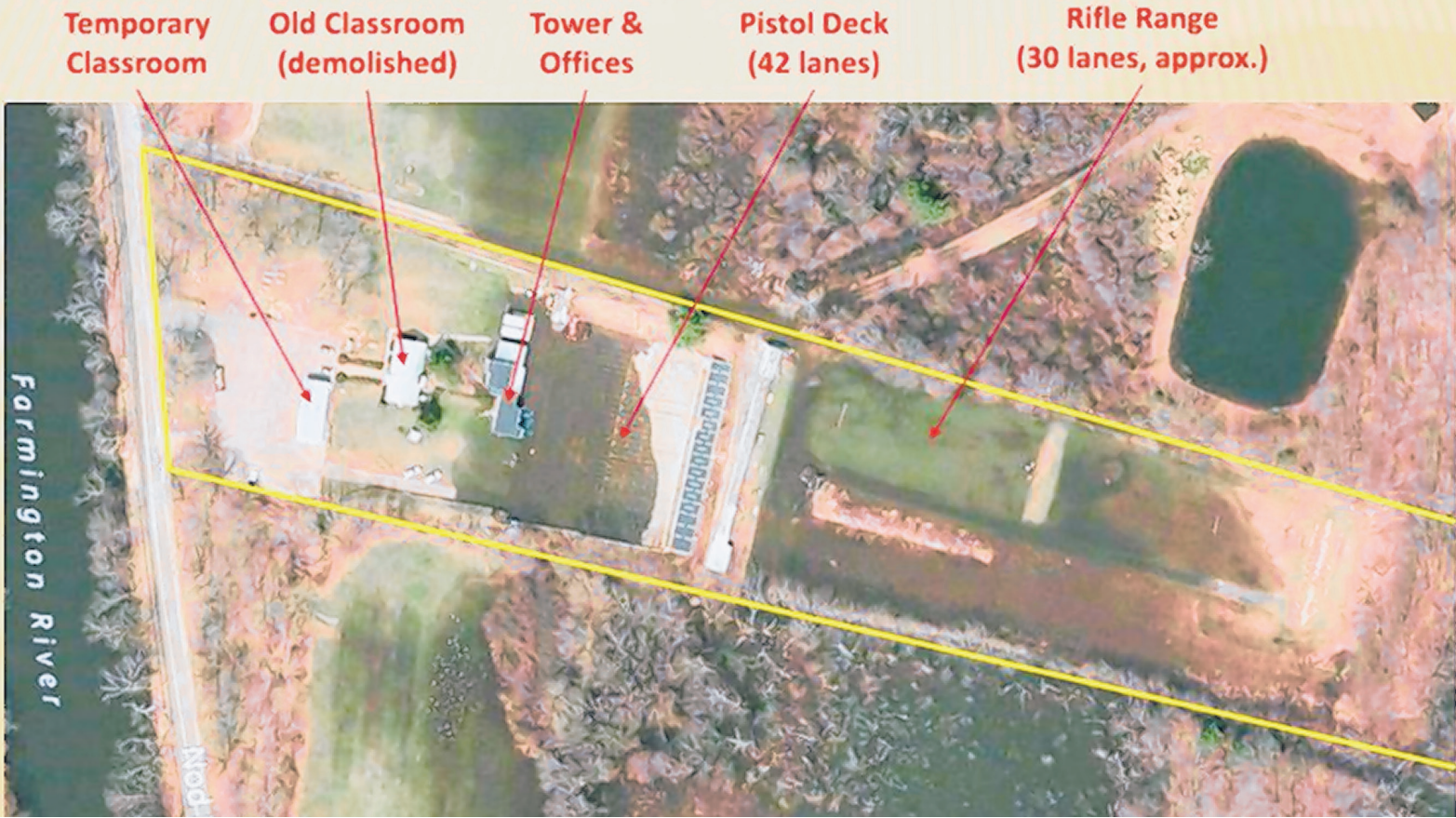
State officials have had no success finding a new location, though.

East Windsor residents objected to preliminary talks about moving the range to their town seven years ago, and Glastonbury residents celebrated in 2013 after persuading the state to drop plans for relocating there.

In 2015, about 50 homeowners in Willington protested at the state Capitol when the state was eyeing a Ruby Road property, and even formed a community group called Unwilling-

OVERVIEW OF THE EXISTING FACILITY

Started being used in the early 1900’s. Buildings and other improvements occurred over the years; main structures were built prior to building codes/ floodplain standards



A 2018 photo shows the layout of the current shooting range in Simsbury. STATE OF CONNECTICUT

ton. The state department of emergency services ultimately gave up on that alternative, and since then has abandoned another option — rural Griswold — after running into local opposition there, too.

State police have been pressing for a modern

indoor range with related training resources for years. The Simsbury facility is too small and outdated, they said in 2018, and suffers the costly problem of being in a floodplain.

That’s more than a brief inconvenience. The facility has been flooded several

times in the past 15 years, each time resulting in anywhere from \$40,000 to \$300,000 in damages as well as costly rescheduling of training and trooper recertification sessions, police said.

But the latest state plan is for up to \$10 million to rehab buildings in Simsbury and

put them on pillars more than 10 feet high to keep the building safe from future floods. The plan would provide about 5,200 square feet of building space on less than 13 acres.

Just four years ago, the state police and the department of administrative

services were proposing a 55,000-square-foot training center for Griswold with parking for 125 cars. That property was 200 acres.

“That’s what they need, that’s what the state should do: Build a large indoor facility with pop-up targets and simulations,” Patricelli said.

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PLAY4 DAY 3 6 9 9 WB: 7

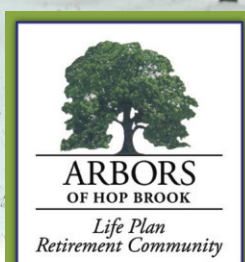
SUNDAY’S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT 7 5 7 WB: 7
PLAY4 NIGHT 7 5 0 4 WB: 4
CASH 5 4 15 27 31 34
LUCKY FOR LIFE 4 11 23 24 31 LB: 11

Tonight’s est. Lotto jackpot: \$1.2 million
Tonight’s est. Mega Millions jackpot: \$20 million
Wednesday’s est. Powerball jackpot: \$113 million


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FROM PAGE ONE

Ukraine

from Page 1

tensions in the crisis, with the West saying Moscow is preparing for an invasion. Russia denies it is planning to attack. It demands pledges that Ukraine will never join NATO, a halt to the deployment of NATO weapons near Russian borders and a rollback of the alliance's forces from Eastern Europe. NATO and the U.S. call those nonstarters. Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia accused the U.S. of "whipping up tensions and rhetoric and provoking escalation." "You are almost pulling for this," he said, looking at Thomas-Greenfield. "You want it to happen. You're waiting for it to happen, as if you want to make your words become a reality." He blamed the U.S. for the 2014 ouster of a Kremlin-friendly president in

Kyiv, saying it brought to power "nationalists, radicals, Russophobes and pure Nazis," and created the antagonism that exists between Ukraine and Russia. "If they hadn't done this, then we to date would be living in a spirit of good neighborly relations and mutual cooperation," Nebenzia said. "However, some in the West just don't clearly like this positive scenario. What's happening today is yet another attempt to drive a wedge between Russia and Ukraine." Nebenzia pointedly left the council chamber as the Ukrainian Ambassador Sergiy Kyslytsya started to speak. "How long Russia will pressure, will pursue a clear attempt to push Ukraine and its partners into a Kafka trap?" Kyslytsya asked. The vote on holding an open meeting passed 10-2, with Russia and China



Ukrainian soldiers examine their tanks Monday at a military unit close to Kharkiv, Ukraine. **ANDREW MARIENKO/AP**

opposed, and India, Gabon and Kenya abstaining. Nine "yes" votes were needed for the meeting to go ahead. China's Ambassador Zhang Jun said he voted against the public meeting because "what is urgently needed now is quiet diplomacy, not megaphone diplomacy." The U.S. and its allies had pressed to hold the meeting Monday, the last day of

Norway's rotating presidency of the council, before Russia takes over Tuesday for the month of February. Any statement or resolution by the Security Council is extremely unlikely, given Russia's veto power and its ties with others on the council, including China. After all 15 council members spoke, the U.S. and Russia sparred again, with Thomas-Greenfield saying

she was "disappointed" in Nebenzia's comments, stressing that Russian threats of aggression are "provocative." "I say to Russia simply this: Your actions will speak for themselves," the U.S. envoy said. Nebenzia shot back: "Everything that we wanted to say is in our statement today. However, we really just don't understand what threats and provocations and escalation by Russia is being talked about." President Joe Biden said in a statement that the meeting was "a critical step in rallying the world to speak out in one voice" to reject the use of force and seek military de-escalation. At the start of a White House meeting with the ruling emir of Qatar, Biden said the U.S. continues to engage in "nonstop diplomacy," but "we are ready no matter what happens." Biden warned Ukrainian

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in a phone call Thursday that there is a "distinct possibility" Russia could begin an incursion in February, but the Ukrainian leader sought to play down the war fears, saying Western alarm over a potential invasion has prompted many investors in the country's financial markets to cash out. Zelenskyy said Friday that "we aren't seeing any escalation bigger than before." Later Monday, the Russian government sent a written response to a U.S. proposal aimed at deescalating the Ukraine crisis, according to three Biden administration officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity. A State Department official declined to offer details of the response, saying it "would be unproductive to negotiate in public" and they would leave it up to Russia to discuss their counterproposal.



Fiona Firine, left, her husband, Joe, and their daughter, Isabelle, have become advocates for opioid response reform with their organization, For Cameron. **CONNECTICUT HEALTH I-TEAM**

Opioids

from Page 1

Firine, a spokesperson for For Cameron, an advocacy organization her family set up in the wake of the death of a loved one. "We should approach opioids with the same intensity that we do COVID. This is an epidemic. It's a crisis." Firine organized an informal Zoom call on Jan. 10 where advocacy groups took turns presenting jointly-agreed-on proposals to state senators and assembly members. They called for the creation of a state "Chief Drug Officer" to coordinate the multi-agency response to the crisis and to educate the public about its severity and urgency. They also asked for spending on additional capacity for in-patient treatment and for additional support for people after they complete such programs. Another proposal seems destined to be controversial at a time when Connecticut has been reducing its prison population: 5-year minimum sentences for people who are convicted of selling drugs containing fentanyl. Contacted later, two members of the legislature's Public Health Committee who participated in the call said they're gathering information and have not begun drafting legislation. State Rep. John-Michael Parker of the 101st District, wrote in an email: "I am still very new to this issue and have a lot to learn." State Rep. Jillian Gilchrist of the 18th District and vice chair of the committee, agreed that it's time for a reassessment. She said she likes the chief drug officer idea and called for a fundamental shift in the way the state deals with opioids. "We need major changes," she said. "We need to shift to seeing this as a chronic disease rather than a problem that can be solved with quick fixes." Resources should be available to fund new approaches or expansions of existing programs. Connecticut and its cities are flush with cash from federal stimulus programs and, starting this summer, they will begin receiving funds from the national opioid settlement with the pharmaceutical

companies that profited from over-prescription of legal opioid medications for pain. According to the state attorney general's office, Connecticut will receive \$300 million over 18 years. It's up to the legislature to decide how to spend it. The settlement stipulates that 70% of the money should be spent on future abatement activities. The state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the agency with primary responsibility for dealing with the opioid crisis, runs, funds, and/or regulates a wide variety of activities and programs, including the Live Loud Families awareness website and more than 250 addiction care facilities and 45 sober homes. A spokesperson for Luiza Barnat, director for opioid services at DMHAS, said "DMHAS is implementing strategies that have been proven effective in addressing the opioid crisis." In response to a question about how the settlement money should be spent, the answer was brief: "It should be directed toward practices that have been proven effective." Addiction medicine experts at Yale School of Medicine argue that nationally and in Connecticut, more resources and attention should be focused on evidence-based solutions — primarily outpatient medication-assisted treatment (MAT). That's the use of opioid-based medications in combination with counseling and behavior therapies. "Despite us knowing what to do, the numbers keep getting worse," said Dr. David Fiellin, director of Yale's Program in Addiction Medicine. He was the lead author in 2016 of a strategic plan for the state, which was commissioned by then-Gov. Dannel Malloy. Much of the response to opioid use disorder is still focused on law enforcement and abstinence, neither of which has been effective at ending the drug crisis. Fiellin called for lessening government support for programs that do not provide medication-based treatment and for establishing new rules requiring all addiction care programs to inform patients about the

comparative effectiveness of treatment options. Community opposition to the APT Foundation methadone clinic in New Haven shows how difficult it is to make MAT widely available. Dispensing methadone for opioid use disorder is controlled by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and is limited to specialty facilities that are most often located in cities and typically serve hundreds of patients. Residents living near an existing APT Foundation clinic on New Haven's Congress Avenue have complained for years about people congregating nearby and drug use in the neighborhood, and, though the clinic has made changes in response, the neighbors are not satisfied. They complain that people from elsewhere are channeled to the city for methadone treatment, placing an unfair burden on neighborhoods where the residents are predominantly Black and Latino. APT Foundation Chief Executive Lynn Madden defends her clinics. "Sitting drug treatment programs is very difficult. There's a lot of misunderstanding of how methadone treatment works, and neighbors have had negative experiences," she said. Madden called for a broad new state initiative aimed at getting people quick access to MAT via a wide variety of touchpoints — whether it's a community health clinic, a hospital emergency department, a homeless shelter, an obstetrician's office, or a church-based social service. Fiellin and some of his colleagues at Yale helped shape changes in government policy that enabled more physicians to prescribe buprenorphine. Now, they hope to convince the DEA to change regulations for methadone, making it available for prescription by trained and certified doctors anywhere in the state and the country. That way, they argue, it would be easier for people to access the most effective treatments, and the unwelcome congregation problems could be reduced or eliminated. "We shouldn't have to rely on large methadone clinics to get treatment to people who need it," said Marek Chawarski, an opioid

researcher in Yale's Department of Psychiatry. "The current highly regulated model of treating people with opioid use problems is outdated and an unnecessary relic of past thinking." Chawarski stressed that MAT is not a magic bullet. Besides medications, other approaches are needed. He said there should be improvements in prevention programs in schools. In addition, lifestyle changes can help patients with OUD sustain recovery. Chawarski, Fiellin and their colleagues face a number of challenges in their effort to expand methadone prescribing — and not just from the DEA (which didn't respond to a request for comment) and advocates of abstinence-based treatments. Even though general medical practices have been permitted to prescribe buprenorphine for nearly 20 years, not enough of them actually do it. Methadone, with all of its reputational problems, might be an ever-harder sell. In spite of the evidence that MAT is the most effective treatment for OUD, some people within the recovery community favor other approaches, such as so-called 12-step programs, many of which preach abstinence. Phil Valentine, executive director of Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery, said that rather than trying to convince people to use MAT, treatment experts should listen to people who are in recovery and their families and see what *they* want. "We should see if there's something innovative we can try — whether it's evidence-based or not — that might have an effect," he said. While the advocates for change don't agree on everything, they agree on one thing: the need for bold changes. "Every system is perfectly designed to produce the results it's currently receiving," says APT Foundation's Madden. "We aren't achieving the results we want, so let's change the system."

This story was reported under a partnership with the Connecticut Health I-Team (c-hit.org), a nonprofit news organization dedicated to health reporting.

Celebration

from Page 1

to hear that the parade and festival event wouldn't go on as usual this year. She's marched in it herself, including in 2019 when she was then a candidate to become one of only a small number of West Indians to serve on Hartford's city council. "I've still got tons of pictures showing it off," she said. "So you do understand how my heart breaks." "But at the same time, you have to understand the resources that we have, and that's what the residents elected me to do: to make the best decision I know how to, given the information that I'm given," Surgeon added. Montanez described the decision as part of the city's "growing pains" as it looks to accommodate more events in an increasingly lively downtown scene. There's now minor league baseball and soccer, Montanez said, and concerts at the XL Center and XFINITY Theatre. The city also runs a Summer in the City festival series in partnership with the Greater Hartford Arts Council. "At one point Hartford wasn't so active, and so it probably was a lot easier for an event to happen, because it was the only game in town," Montanez said. All of those events require some police presence, plus additional staff from public works, she said. Meanwhile, staffing shortages within the Hartford Police Department loom. The city budgets for 473 sworn personnel but only employs 387, with 16 more in the academy, Montanez said. That's down from the 407 sworn personnel the city had in May 2021 — after losing 37 to retirements, resignations and terminations over the previous 12 months, Police Chief Jason Thody said at the time. Hartford police say they're struggling with the same challenges facing departments nationwide attracting new recruits. Meanwhile, Hartford's force is continually hemorrhaged by suburban departments eager to offer higher salaries to young officers with urban experience. Montanez said the police department also needs some leeway in case of illegal "pop-up" parties — which she said became more common during the pandemic — most notably on Wethersfield Avenue near Colt Park. The city and parade organizers met in person last year to discuss alternatives, and Montanez said she hopes to do so again soon. "I think it's just a matter of us, from an operations perspective, recalibrating," she said. "And that's a process, and I think we've always tried to always do it in partnership with our events."

Hartford is transitioning its scheduling of parades and festivals from Saturdays to Sundays, which also means an adjustment

for Hartford's Puerto Rican Day Parade. Sinclair wonders why the city is prioritizing other downtown events — which are often more popular with suburban residents — over celebrations that have gone on for decades. And moving the West Indian celebration to a different date is out of the question, he said. The date was chosen as a compromise: Jamaica declared independence from English colonial rule on Aug. 6, 1962, and Trinidad and Tobago followed on Aug. 31. Aug. 1 marks Emancipation Day, when slavery was abolished in the British Empire, and International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is on Aug. 23. The second Saturday celebration became tradition, a way of celebrating not just Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, but also the 11 more countries in the region that would gain independence by 1983. Surgeon pushes back against claims that the city's stance could amount to cultural displacement. "The city is not saying, 'We can't do this,' " Surgeon said. "The city is saying, 'Let's do this in the best and the safest way for everyone.'" The city was met with mixed response last time it asked the West Indian Independence Celebration to adjust parade proceedings. The parade used to start downtown and flow up Main Street, ending at the West Indian Social Club in the city's North End. Former Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez asked them to reverse course in the mid-2000s; Sinclair described it as being invited to join the "corporate world." "We didn't want to come downtown, we were uptown doing our thing," Sinclair said. While many other immigrant groups have left the city, members of the West Indian community still call the North End home. Eventually, the group acquiesced. Natasha Samuels, the organizing committee's communications director, thinks the change was for the better. Ending the parade in Bushnell Park opened up the possibility of adding a concert, Samuels said. People began to picnic in the leafy park, and the event took on more of a family atmosphere. Now, after being told the city cannot accommodate both a parade and a festival, organizers are working on alternatives. Samuels said they want to negotiate expanded use of Bushnell Park, and hold the festival there. Like when they changed the direction of the parade, Samuels thinks "this is an opportunity for us to do something a little bit different, create a new tradition, and create an event to meet people where they're at." "It will still be great, and still meet our mission of promoting and preserving West Indian culture," Samuels said. *Seamus McAvoy may be reached at smcavoy@courant.com.*

Reason for pause on Year of Tiger

Virus again casting large shadow over Lunar New Year

By David Rising and Ken Moritsugu
Associated Press

BEIJING — People across Asia prepared Monday for muted Lunar New Year celebrations amid concerns over the coronavirus and the virulent omicron variant, even as increasing vaccination rates raised hopes that the Year of the Tiger might bring life back closer to normal.

The Lunar New Year is the most important annual holiday in China and falls on Tuesday. Each year is named after one of 12 signs of the Chinese zodiac in a repeating cycle. The Year of the Tiger follows the Year of the Ox.

This will be the third new year in a row celebrated in the shadow of the pandemic. It was two days before the holiday in 2020 that China locked down Wuhan — a city of 11 million people — following the detection of the coronavirus there.

Some 85% of Chinese are now fully vaccinated, according to Our World in Data, and more Chinese have been traveling domestically this year, despite government warnings. Many people prepare to celebrate by buying red lanterns and other decorations for their homes, and food to mark the beginning of a new year.

Still, 63-year-old retiree Huang Ping lamented as he shopped at a Beijing flower market that the new year's "atmosphere has faded" with the closure of temples and seasonal fairs to prevent



A worshipper burns giant joss sticks Tuesday, the start of the Lunar New Year, at a temple in Hong Kong. ANTHONY KWAN/GETTY

large crowds.

He said he hoped for better times soon. "I wish for the epidemic to pass as early as possible and for the economy to recover as well."

Another retiree, Han Guiha, said he was planning on making the best of the situation.

"I'll stay at home enjoying good food and wine," the 62-year-old said. "I will make my house clean and beautiful. Right now the virus is spreading, and we need to be careful."

Some 260 million people traveled in China in the first 10 days of the holiday rush starting Jan. 17 — fewer than before the pandemic but up 46% over last year. Overall,

the government forecasts 1.2 billion trips during the holiday season, up 36% from a year ago.

This year the celebrations coincide with the Beijing Winter Olympics, which open near the end of the weeklong holiday. The Chinese capital has been tightening controls to contain coronavirus outbreaks ahead of the sporting event.

The Games are being held inside sealed-off "bubbles," and organizers have announced that no tickets will be sold to the general public and only selected spectators will be allowed.

"I'll watch the games with my kid, but of course on TV,"

said Wang Zhuo, a retail manager from Beijing.

In Hong Kong, which saw a surge in cases in January, people wore surgical masks as they shopped for red and tiger-themed holiday items. The city has closed schools because of the outbreaks and required restaurants to close at 6 p.m., forcing many to dine at home for traditional New Year's Eve family dinners.

With the Year of the Tiger, many are hoping the traditional powers attributed to the animal will help put the country on a path out of the pandemic, said Chen Lian-shan, a Beijing university expert on Chinese folklore.

"The tiger is a protection

against evil spirits and it can defeat demons and ghosts of all kinds, and the Chinese believe that the plague is one kind of an evil spirit," he said.

Elsewhere in Asia, there were signs that celebrations might not be as subdued as they were last year. Despite ongoing pandemic restrictions, most people are now vaccinated with at least two shots in many of the region's countries.

In the old quarter of Hanoi, people flocked on the weekend to the traditional market to get decorations and flowers for the festival, known as Tet in Vietnam.

Vietnam's daily case count remains at about 15,000 new

infections, but its low hospitalization and death rate has allowed the country to reopen for business and cautiously resume social activities.

More than 70% of Vietnamese are fully vaccinated, and 80% have had at least one shot, according to Our World in Data.

Still, the country has canceled Tet fireworks and other large events to minimize risks this year.

In Thailand, where 69% of people are fully vaccinated, Bangkok decided this year not to hold traditional Lunar New Year celebrations in Chinatown for the second year in a row, but was going ahead with lighting seasonal lanterns on the district's main street.

In Singapore, Lunar New Year celebrations are more subdued due to virus restrictions that allow residents to receive only five unique visitors a day, and preferably only one visit daily. The rules are likely to get in the way of the tradition of visiting relatives during the holiday.

"This year it will be rather quiet, as people are spacing out visiting over the next two weeks instead of on the first or second day of the new year," said Sebastian Lim, a Singapore resident.

Business was brisk at a flower market in the Taiwanese capital of Taipei on Monday as people made last-minute purchases. Some 73% of Taiwanese are fully vaccinated.

"The pandemic is surely affecting it a bit, but people still like flowers, so they come out and buy flowers," said one shopkeeper. "But prices are lower because we have overproduction and we can't export some items — this is our biggest problem."

An apology for 'partygate,' but no plans to step aside

UK's Johnson pledges reforms; inquiry finds failure of leadership

By Jill Lawless
Associated Press

LONDON — Prime Minister Boris Johnson apologized Monday after an inquiry found that Downing Street parties while Britain was in lockdown represented a "serious failure" to observe the standards expected of government or to heed the sacrifices made by millions of people during the pandemic.

But Johnson brushed off calls to quit over the "partygate" scandal, promising to reform the way his office is run and insisting that he and his government can be trusted.

"I get it, and I will fix it," he said in Parliament after senior civil servant Sue Gray published interim findings on several gatherings in 2020 and 2021 while the U.K. was under government-imposed restrictions to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

Gray found that "failures of leadership and judgment" allowed events to occur that "should not have been allowed to take place."

"The hardship under

which citizens across the country worked, lived and sadly even died while observing the government's regulations and guidance rigorously are known only too well," Gray wrote.

"Against the backdrop of the pandemic, when the government was asking citizens to accept far-reaching restrictions on their lives, some of the behavior surrounding these gatherings is difficult to justify," she added.

Gray's glimpse inside a No. 10 Downing St. marked by excessive alcohol consumption and staff afraid to speak out about workplace problems are a blow to Johnson, despite the fact that Gray's conclusions relate to just four of the 16 events she investigated.

Her findings on 12 others have been withheld at the request of the police, who last week launched a criminal investigation into the most serious alleged breaches of coronavirus rules. The Metropolitan Police force said it had asked for cuts to Gray's report "to avoid any prejudice to our investigation."

The force said Monday that it would be interviewing party attendees and looking at more than 300 photos and over 500 pages

of documents it had received from Gray's team. Anyone found guilty, including the prime minister, could face a fine.

Among the events under police investigation are a June 2020 birthday party for Johnson in Downing Street and two gatherings held on the eve of Prince Philip's funeral in April 2021 — a funeral at which the widowed Queen Elizabeth II had to sit alone.

The allegations that the prime minister and his staff flouted restrictions imposed on the country to curb the spread of the coronavirus — holding "bring your own booze" office parties, birthday celebrations and "wine time Fridays" — have caused public anger, led some Conservative lawmakers to call for Johnson's resignation and triggered intense infighting inside the governing party.

Opposition Labour Party leader Keir Starmer said the British public had made "heart-wrenching sacrifices" and endured "a collective trauma" during the pandemic.

"The prime minister took us all for fools," he said. "He held people's sacrifice in contempt. He showed himself unfit for office."

Johnson can ignore oppo-



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson heads Monday to the House of Commons from No. 10 Downing St., which was the scene of several alcohol-infused parties among he and his staff while the nation was subject to government-imposed restrictions because of the coronavirus pandemic, according to a senior civil servant's report. ALBERTO PEZZALI/AP

sition criticism, because the Conservatives have a large majority in Parliament. His fate rests on how Conservative lawmakers respond to his apology.

Some previously said they would push for a no-confidence vote if Gray found Johnson was at serious fault or had misled Parliament with his previous insistence that no rules had been broken.

Johnson urged his critics to wait for the conclusions of the police investigation.

But one Conservative

legislator, Andrew Mitchell, said in the House of Commons that Johnson "no longer has my support."

Another, Aaron Bell, recalled attending his grandmother's small, socially distanced funeral in May 2020 and asked: "Does the prime minister think I'm a fool?"

Former Conservative Prime Minister Theresa May said that either Johnson and those around him "had not read the rules or didn't understand what they meant. Or they didn't think

the rules applied to them. Which was it?"

Gray did not criticize the prime minister directly, but said "there is significant learning to be drawn from these events which must be addressed immediately across government."

The government initially refused to promise that it would publish Gray's full findings when the police investigation is finished. But after pressure from Conservative lawmakers, Johnson's office committed to publishing her updated report.



Canada's Justin Trudeau said he is "feeling fine." ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trudeau tests positive for virus, rips anti-vaccine protesters

By Rob Gillies
Associated Press

TORONTO — Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced Monday that he has tested positive for COVID-19 but is "feeling fine" and will continue to work remotely from home.

Trudeau said two of his children have COVID-19 and a test Monday revealed he had been infected as well.

He also used a televised virtual news conference to denounce anti-vaccine

protesters who filled Canada's capital to complain about COVID-19 restrictions.

"Canadians were shocked and quite frankly disgusted by the behavior displayed by some people in our nation's capital," Trudeau said. "I want to be clear. We are not intimidated by those who hurl insults and abuse at small businesses and steal from the homeless. We won't give in to those who fly racist flags. We won't cave to those who engage in vandalism or

dishonor the memory of our veterans."

Some demonstrators traveled in truck convoys and parked on the streets around Parliament Hill, blocking traffic — and a smaller number remained Monday.

Many Canadians were outraged by images over the weekend of some protesters urinating on the National War Memorial and dancing on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, while a number carried signs and flags with swastikas.

Many protesters refused to wear masks in hotels, malls and grocery stores.

Canada has one of the world's highest rates of vaccination against the coronavirus — shots that are primarily designed to keep those who become infected from falling seriously ill.

Protest organizers have called for the elimination of all COVID-19 restrictions and vaccine mandates and for the removal of Trudeau, though he is responsible for few of the restrictions, most

of which were put in place by provincial governments.

The Ottawa police department has said it is investigating possible criminal charges over some actions during the protests.

Some protesters were demonstrating against a rule that took effect Jan. 15 requiring truckers entering Canada to be fully immunized against the coronavirus. The United States also has imposed the same requirement on truckers entering that country.

WORLD&NATION

Many think COVID-19 here to stay

Poll finds Americans appear to be taking more precautions

By Kate Brumback, Nathan Ellgren and Jocelyn Noveck
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Early in the pandemic, Ryan Wilson was careful to take precautions — wearing a mask, not really socializing, doing more of his shopping online.

The 38-year-old father and seafood butcher from Casselberry, Florida, says he relaxed a bit after getting vaccinated last year. He had a few friends over and saw his parents more, while making sure to still mask up at places like the grocery store. The recent virus surge hasn't caused him to change his behavior much, because he's vaccinated and has read that the variant causes less severe illness.

And, like many, Wilson has come to believe COVID-19 is probably never fully going away.

"It'll become endemic and we'll be stuck with it forever," he says. "It's frustrating, but what can you do about it?"

Many Americans agree that they're going to "be stuck with it forever" — or, at the least, for a long time. A poll from Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research shows that few — just 15% — say they'll consider the pandemic over only when COVID-19 is largely eliminated. By contrast, 83% say they'll feel the pandemic is over when it's largely a mild illness.

The poll shows that 59% of Americans think it's essential that they personally be vaccinated against COVID-19 to feel safe participating in public activities.

But, underscoring what authorities call alarmingly low COVID-19 vaccination rates in U.S. children ages 5 to 11, just 37% of parents consider it essential that



Waiter Juan Rodriguez asks a customer to show his vaccination card before being allowed inside a restaurant in Los Angeles. DAMIAN DOVARGANES/AP 2021

their children be vaccinated before they return to normal. And although boosters provide significantly better protection against COVID-19, especially the omicron variant, than a two-shot course of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, just 47% of Americans think it's essential that they get one.

Wilson said that while he is vaccinated, he doesn't plan to have his 5-year-old daughter vaccinated because he's heard the odds of healthy children suffering anything more than cold symptoms are low.

In Minneapolis, 36-year-old public health researcher Colin Planalp got his 6-year-old son vaccinated as soon as he could.

"Kids can get really sick from COVID," he says, faulting health authorities for not

making that more clear to the public.

Although kids tend to fare better than adults, experts say they still can suffer from serious illness and long-term health impacts from the virus.

The poll shows more Americans are taking precautionary measures against the virus than before the omicron surge.

Overall, 64% now say they are always or often avoiding large groups and 65% are wearing face masks around others, both up from 57% in December. Sixty percent say they are regularly avoiding nonessential travel, up from 53% one month ago. That level of precaution is the highest since last spring, before millions of Americans were fully vaccinated.

Early in the pandemic, Planalp and his wife worked

at home for months on end, and kept their young son home. But when they got vaccinated they allowed themselves to go out more, to visit family out of state, even to work part-time in the office.

Then the delta variant hit, and they ratcheted up their precautions. With omicron, they upped them even more.

"I've switched to wearing N95 masks because I'm no longer confident in the regular cloth masks, and I hardly go out at all anymore," Planalp says.

Planalp, too, doesn't think the virus is going anywhere — and isn't sure it will get milder, either: "We're not going to be done with this. It's going to change over time and we just can't predict exactly how it's going to change."

Vaccinated Americans remain much more likely to practice precautions. Seventy-three percent of vaccinated Americans say they frequently wear a mask around others, compared with 37% of unvaccinated Americans.

David Close, 50, who is unvaccinated, says he never changed any of his behavior: "It's been over for me," he says. "I never really went into any type of pandemic fear."

Close, who moved from Tampa, Florida, to Vonore, Tennessee, in May, says he, his wife and their two kids all had COVID-19 in October.

Close had a fever of about 103 or 104 for about 24 hours and was back up and feeling great within 36 hours, he says. He lost his taste and smell for about 10 days.

"I can always make it

through an illness," he says. "I'm not fearful of things like that."

Studies show that even for people who have had it already, vaccination provides additional protection against COVID-19, which has killed more than 850,000 Americans.

In Minersville, Utah, Jamie Costello, 57, a math teacher and mother of eight, has not been vaccinated — not because she opposes vaccines, but because she has had severe reactions to flu shots, and has recovered from COVID-19.

Like many Americans, Costello feels COVID-19 is something that will come to feel as familiar as the flu.

"It's a very fast-mutating virus," she says. "We're just going to eventually have to say, 'Well, it's the flu and COVID season.'"



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WORLD&NATION

For old, even low soot levels deadly

Study says tighter standard could have stopped 143K deaths

By Lisa Friedman
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — Older Americans who regularly breathe even low levels of pollution from smokestacks, automobile exhaust, wildfires and other sources face a greater chance of dying early, according to a recently released major study.

Researchers at the Health Effects Institute, a group that is funded by the Environmental Protection Agency as well as automakers and fossil fuel companies, examined health data from 68.5 million Medicare recipients across the country.

They found that if the federal rules for allowable levels of fine soot had been slightly lower, as many as 143,000 deaths could have been prevented over the course of a decade.

Exposure to fine particulate matter has long been linked to respiratory illness and impaired cognitive development in children.

The tiny particles can enter the lungs and bloodstream to affect lung function, exacerbate asthma and trigger heart attacks and other serious illness.

Earlier research has found that exposure to particulate matter contributed to about 20,000 deaths a year.

The study is the first in the United States to document deadly effects of the particulate matter known as PM 2.5 (because its width is 2.5 microns or less) on people who live in rural areas and towns with little industry.

“We found a risk of dying early from exposure to air pollution, even at very low levels of air pollution across the United States,” said Daniel S. Greenbaum, president of the Health Effects Institute.

The findings come as the Biden administration



Skies around Lake Tahoe are stained with wildfire smoke near Incline Village, Nev. MAX WHITTAKER/THE NEW YORK TIMES 2021

is considering whether to strengthen the national standard for PM 2.5, which is currently set at a yearly average of 12 micrograms per cubic meter, a level higher than that recommended by the World Health Organization.

Researchers concluded that 143,257 deaths could have been prevented between 2006 and 2016 if the standard had been tightened to 10 micrograms per cubic meter.

“If we were to reduce PM 2.5, we would be saving a substantial amount of lives,” said Francesca Dominici, a professor of biostatistics at Harvard who led the study, which took four years to complete. “It’s highly significant.

“This is important evidence for EPA to consider,” Dominici added.

Other studies have linked fine soot pollution to higher rates of death from COVID-19, with Black and other

communities of color particularly at risk because they are more likely to be located near highways, power plants and other industrial facilities.

The Biden administration has made tighter regulation of emissions from power plants, factories and other industrial sites central to its strategy to address environmental justice.

By law, the EPA is required to review the latest science and update the soot standard every five years.

The Trump administration opted not to strengthen the standard when it conducted the most recent review, despite growing scientific evidence of the harm to public health caused by particulate matter.

Using the public data of the 68.5 million Medicare recipients — nearly every American older than 65 — researchers focused on people living in rural areas and other places that are

not well monitored by the EPA, either because they are sparsely populated or because pollution levels are not considered as high as in cities or along the congested East Coast.

A spokesman for the EPA said the agency was expected to propose a draft rule by summer and to issue a final rule by the spring of 2023.

Polluting industries are expected to lobby heavily against a stricter new soot pollution rule.

The American Petroleum Institute, which represents oil and gas companies, did not review the Health Effects Institute research but questioned the need for tighter pollution rules.

In a statement, the trade group said “the current scientific evidence indicates the existing standards are effectively designed to protect public health and meet statutory requirements.”

The institute noted that emissions of traditional pollutants like PM 2.5 have dropped significantly since the 1970s because of the use of cleaner automobile fuels and the rise of natural gas in power generation instead of coal.

Some experts said companies were resigned to the likelihood the Biden administration will tighten the rule, but were concerned about how far it might go.

“It’s a question of how much,” said Jeffrey Holmstead, a lawyer who served in the EPA in both Bush administrations.

A significant reduction in allowable limits would be “very costly” for companies, Holmstead said.

He also noted that in communities that do not have major industrial centers, much of the fine soot pollution comes from automobiles, making it difficult for state governments to regulate.

“At what point do you say we’re going to prohibit any kind of combustion engines because everything contributes to PM 2.5?” Holmstead said. “And if you set a level that is overly-stringent, you basically prohibit any new economic development in certain parts of the country.”

Yet the science documenting the health consequences of exposure to air pollution has been mounting since Harvard University in 1990 produced its landmark “six cities” study, which found living in heavily polluted cities can shave 2-3 years off a person’s life.

Hazel Chandler, 76, lives in Phoenix and said she considered herself a prime example of someone living with the cumulative effects of more than 40 years of air pollution.

Chandler said that when she moved to Arizona from Southern California in 1977, the relatively clearer air was a relief. But as the city’s population exploded, so did her asthma and breathing problems.

“Sometimes we have several pollution days in a row, and I don’t need to look at the air quality alerts anymore,” she said. “I know.”

“I can tell by the pressure in my lungs and in my chest, the amount of coughing, I have a chronic cough from it,” Chandler said. “I can tell if I wake up with a really bad cough, it’s probably a high pollution day.”

Chandler, a consultant with Moms Clean Air Force, a nonprofit environmental group, said she worried about older people with heart conditions and other health issues that can be exacerbated by pollution.

But she is even more concerned about children.

“I moved to Phoenix when I was about 30 and it still has impacted my ability to breathe,” she said. “If it’s affecting older people, what is it going to do to the children who are living here and breathing this their whole life?”



California last carried out an execution in 2006. A condemned inmate is led out of his block cell on death row at San Quentin State Prison in California. ERIC RISBERG/AP FILE 2016

California moves to break up the nation’s largest death row

By Don Thompson
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California Gov. Gavin Newsom, who three years ago placed a moratorium on executions, now is moving to dismantle the country’s largest death row by moving all condemned inmates to other prisons within two years.

The goal is to turn the section at San Quentin State Prison into a “positive, healing environment,” Newsom said Monday that it’s an outgrowth of his opposition to what he believes is a deeply flawed system, one that “gets my blood boiling.”

California, which last carried out an execution in 2006, is one of 28 states that maintain death rows, along with the federal government, according to the Death Penalty Information Center. While other states like Illinois have abolished executions, California is merging its condemned inmates into the general prison population with no expectation that any will face execution anytime in the near future.

“We are starting the process of closing death row

to repurpose and transform the current housing units into something innovative and anchored in rehabilitation,” said California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation spokeswoman Vicky Waters.

Oregon similarly transferred its much smaller condemned population to other inmate housing two years ago.

Newsom imposed a moratorium on executions in 2019 and shut down the state’s execution chamber at San Quentin, north of San Francisco. Now his administration is turning on its head a 2016 voter-approved initiative intended to expedite executions by capitalizing on one provision that allowed inmates to be moved off death row.

“The underlying motive of the administration is to mainstream as many of these condemned murderers as possible,” said Michael Rushford, president of the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation, which backed the initiative. “Our objective was to speed up the process.”

He added he doesn’t think victims are happy with the administration’s

decision. “They’re moving condemned murderers into facilities that are going to make their lives better and offer them more amenities, while the victims still mourn the death of their family member,” Rushford said.

Newsom said voters approved the move, though he doubts many understood the provision. “When they affirmed the death penalty, they also affirmed a responsibility ... to actually move that population on death row out and to get them working,” he said.

Corrections officials began a voluntary two-year pilot program in January 2020 that as of Friday had moved 116 of the state’s 673 condemned male inmates to one of seven other prisons that have maximum security facilities and are surrounded by lethal electrified fences.

The men can be moved to California Correctional Institution; California Medical Facility; California State Prison, Corcoran; Centinela State Prison; Kern Valley State Prison; Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility; or Salinas Valley State Prison.

Judge throws out plea deal in Georgia hate crimes case

By Russ Bynum
Associated Press

ATLANTA — A federal judge rejected a plea agreement Monday that would have averted a hate crimes trial for the man convicted of murdering Ahmaud Arbery.

Arbery’s parents denounced the proposed deal for Travis McMichael, with mother Wanda Cooper-Jones and father Marcus Arbery emotionally asking the judge to reject agreements filed for McMichael and his father, Greg McMichael.

In rejecting the deal, U.S. District Judge Lisa Godbey Wood said it would have locked her into specific terms — including 30 years in federal prison — at sentencing. Wood said that in this case it would only be appropriate to consider the family’s wishes at sentencing, which the proposed deal wouldn’t allow.

Travis and his lawyer asked for a 10-minute break to discuss whether he moves ahead with pleading guilty. The judge had yet to rule on his father’s proposed deal.

Marcus Arbery told reporters outside the federal courthouse in Brunswick that he’s “mad as hell” over the deal, which lawyer Lee Merritt said could enable Travis and Greg McMichael to spend the first 30 years of their life sentences in federal prison, rather than state prison where conditions are tougher.

“Ahmaud is a kid you cannot replace,” Arbery said. “He was killed racially and we want 100% justice, not no half justice.”

Cooper-Jones described the U.S. Justice Department’s decision to propose the plea deal despite her objections as “disrespectful.”

“I fought so hard to get these guys in the state prison,” she said. “I told



Travis McMichael, left, and his father, Greg McMichael, were convicted in November 2021 of killing Ahmaud Arbery in February 2020. STEPHEN B. MORTON/GETTY POOL PHOTO

them very adamantly that I wanted them to go to state prison and do their time. ... Then I got up this morning and found out they had accepted this ridiculous plea.”

Wood continued preparations to summon the first 50 potential jurors to the courthouse Feb. 7 for questioning.

The proposed plea agreements were filed with the court late Sunday.

There was no mention of a deal with their co-defendant, William “Roddie” Bryan. Federal deals would not affect state murder convictions in Arbery’s killing. All three men were sentenced to life in prison on Jan. 7 after a trial last fall.

The hate crime charges accuse McMichaels and Bryan of violating the 25-year-old Black man’s civil rights by chasing him through their neighborhood in coastal Georgia on Feb. 23, 2020. The McMichaels armed themselves and pursued Arbery in one pickup truck while Bryan joined the chase in another and recorded blasting Arbery with a shotgun.

A national outcry erupted when the graphic video leaked online two months later. Georgia was one of just four U.S. states without a hate crimes law at the

time. Legislators quickly approved one, but it came too late for state hate crime charges in Arbery’s killing.

During the state trial in Glynn County Superior Court, the defense argued that the white men had authority to chase Arbery because they reasonably suspected he had been committing crimes in their neighborhood. Travis McMichael testified he opened fire only after Arbery attacked him and tried to grab his shotgun.

The federal judge ordered that a jury pool be chosen from throughout the Southern District of Georgia, which covers 43 counties, to improve odds of seating a fair jury.

It is unclear which pieces of evidence might be introduced in the federal trial.

In a pretrial hearing, state prosecutors read a text message from November 2019 in which Travis McMichael used a racist slur about Black people as he described the idea of shooting a “crackhead” with “gold teeth.”

In a federal court filing in late December, the lawyer for Bryan asked the court to exclude evidence that suggested Bryan had “racial animus” toward Black people.

The New York Times contributed.

WORLD&NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

Georgia DA pressing probe of Trump asks FBI for security help

From news services

ATLANTA — The prosecutor who's investigating whether Donald Trump and others broke the law by trying to pressure Georgia officials to overturn Joe Biden's presidential election victory is asking the FBI for security help after the former president railed against prosecutors investigating him.

Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis on Sunday wrote a letter to the FBI office in Atlanta asking for a risk assessment of the county courthouse, where her office is located, and government center. She also asked the FBI to provide protective resources, “to include intelligence and federal agents.”

At his rally Saturday night outside Houston, Trump lashed out against the ongoing investigations in New York, Georgia and Washington and called on his supporters to stage mass protests if he is mistreated by them. In her letter, Willis quoted comments Trump made at the rally.

“If these radical, vicious, racist prosecutors do anything wrong or illegal, I hope we are going to have in this country the biggest protest we have ever had in Washington, D.C., in New York, in Atlanta and elsewhere, because our country and our elections are corrupt,” Trump said.

The comments were notable given Trump's role in inciting the Jan. 6, 2021, storming of the Capitol building. Trump also suggested he might pardon those charged for their role in the riot if he runs for president again and wins reelection.

Willis last year opened an investigation into any potential attempts to improperly influence the 2020 general

election in Georgia by Trump and his associates. A special grand jury is set to be seated May 2 to aid in that investigation, and Willis asked the FBI to take the steps she requested well in advance of that date.

"My staff and I will not be influenced or intimidated by anyone as this investigation moves forward," Willis wrote.

Moderna vaccine: The Food and Drug Administration granted full approval Monday to Moderna's coronavirus vaccine, the second-most widely used in the United States and the second to receive full regulatory approval.

The vaccine, which can be administered to adults and has been shown to be highly effective at preventing virus infections and severe cases of COVID-19, has been in use for more than a year under an emergency-use authorization. That rigorous standard lets federal regulators allow use of the shot in a public health emergency before they complete a longer and more detailed review.

The vaccine received emergency-use authorization in December 2020.

Bomb threats: At least a half-dozen historically Black universities in five states and the District of Columbia were responding to bomb threats Monday, with many of them locking down their campuses for a time.

In warnings to students, school officials say some of the threats were directed at academic buildings.

The FBI "is aware of bomb threats received by some Historically Black Colleges and Universities," the agency said in a statement provided by Jenna Sellitto, an FBI spokesper-



A volunteer searches for survivors in a huge pile of rubble Monday after weekend rains triggered a landslide in Franco da Rocha, Sao Paulo state, Brazil. Landslides and flooding caused by heavy rains have killed at least 19 people and forced about 500,000 families to leave their homes, authorities said. **MARCELO CHELLO/AP**

son in Atlanta. "The FBI takes all potential threats seriously, and we regularly work with our law enforcement partners to determine their credibility."

In Georgia, Albany State University warned students and faculty on social media that “a bomb threat has been issued to Albany State University’s academic buildings.”

School officials at Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, told students to stay in their dormitories and until an all-clear was given.

Cyprus rape case: The Supreme Court in Cyprus overturned the conviction of a British woman given a four-month suspended sentence for making up claims that she was gang-raped by as many as a dozen Israelis during a vacation in Cyprus in 2019, defense lawyers said Monday.

Michael Polak, who was among a team of lawyers representing the woman,

called the decision a “watershed moment” for the woman and others “around the world who find themselves in similar positions.”

Polak said the Supreme Court agreed with the defense that the British woman didn't receive a fair trial.

Polak said that among the flaws the Supreme Court pointed out in the investigation and subsequent trial was that the woman didn't have a lawyer present when questioned by the police.

Also, both investigators and the trial judge “fundamentally misunderstood” the evidence regarding the timing of the rape, which prejudiced proceedings against the woman.

Myanmar crackdown: Security forces in Myanmar have arrested dozens of people in a preemptive move to suppress plans for a nationwide strike Tuesday on the one-year anniversary of the army's seizure of power, state-run media reported.

Opponents of military rule in the country have called for a “Silent Strike” aimed at emptying the streets of Myanmar’s cities and towns by having people stay home and businesses shut their doors from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. One of the planned follow-up protests then wants supporters to make noise by banging pots and pans, or honking horns.

The military's Feb. 1, 2021, takeover ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, whose National League for Democracy party was about to begin a second five-year term in office after winning a landslide victory.

At least 58 have been arrested since last week after posting notices on Facebook that their shops and businesses would be closed on Tuesday, according to reports in the state-run Myanmar Alinn Daily newspaper.

Missile intercepted: The United Arab Emirates intercepted a ballistic missile

fired by Yemen's Houthi rebels early Monday as the Israeli president, Isaac Herzog, was visiting the country, authorities said, the third such attack in as many weeks.

The attack fuels ongoing tensions in the wider Persian Gulf, which has seen a series of attacks as Iran's nuclear deal with world powers unravels and Yemen's yearslong war rages on.

As negotiators in Vienna attempt to revive the accord and Emirati-backed forces press on the Houthis, the rebels are launching their longest-range attacks yet — a major challenge for the Emirates, which advertises itself to international businesses as a safe corner of an otherwise-dangerous neighborhood.

The UAE's state-run WAM news agency reported the interception, saying "the attack did not result in any losses, as the remnants of the ballistic missile fell outside the populated areas."



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BUSINESS

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Rogan addresses backlash from musicians on Spotify

Music streaming service to roll out advisories before podcasts on COVID-19

By **Jake Coyle**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Following protests of Spotify kicked off by Neil Young over the spread of COVID-19 vaccine misinformation, the music streaming service said that it will add content advisories before podcasts discussing the virus.

Spotify CEO Daniel Ek laid out more transparent platform rules given the backlash stirred by Young, who on Wednesday had his music removed from Spotify after the tech giant declined to get rid of episodes of “The Joe Rogan Experience,” which has been criticized for spreading virus misinformation.

“Personally, there are plenty of individuals and views on Spotify that I disagree with strongly,” Ek wrote. “It is important to me that we don’t take on the position of being content censor while also making sure that there are rules in place and consequences for those who violate them.”

Ek said that the advisories will link to Spotify’s fact-based COVID-19 hub in what

he described as a “new effort to combat misinformation.”

It will roll out in the coming days, Ek said.

Rogan responded to the fallout Sunday, saying in a video on Instagram that he was only seeking to have conversations on his podcast with people who have “differing opinions.”

“I’m not trying to promote misinformation, I’m not trying to be controversial,” Rogan said. “I’ve never tried to do anything with this podcast other than to just talk to people.”

He also said that he schedules the guests on his podcast himself, and that he would try to book doctors with different opinions right after he talks to “the controversial ones.”

Rogan noted that he earlier sat down on the show with Dr. Sanjay Gupta, the chief medical correspondent for CNN; Dr. Michael Osterholm, who is a member of President Joe Biden’s COVID-19 advisory board; and Dr. Peter Hotez from Baylor College of Medicine.

Rogan additionally welcomed the idea of

adding advisories before podcasts related to COVID-19.

Earlier Sunday, Nils Lofgren, the Bruce Springsteen guitarist and a member of Crazy Horse, a frequent collaborator with Young, said he was joining Young’s Spotify revolt. Lofgren said he had already had the last 27 years of his music removed and requested labels with his earlier music to do likewise.

“We encourage all musicians, artists and music lovers everywhere to stand with us and cut ties with Spotify,” Lofgren wrote in a statement.

On Friday, Joni Mitchell said she is seeking to remove all of her music from Spotify in solidarity with Young. Earlier, hundreds of scientists, professors and public health experts called on Spotify “to immediately establish a clear and public policy to moderate misinformation on its platform.”

Their criticism focused on a Dec. 31 episode of “The Joe Rogan Experience” featuring Dr. Robert Malone, an infectious disease specialist banned from Twitter for spreading COVID-19 misinformation.

US building ‘road map’ details how to get funds

By **Josh Boak**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration on Monday issued a guidebook to help federal, state and local government officials know how to access the nearly \$1 trillion made available by the bipartisan infrastructure deal.

Mitch Landrieu, a senior White House adviser who is supervising the infrastructure spending, said the goal of the 461-page book is to ensure that all communities have the details on how to qualify for funding, no matter their size or politics.

“It’s an absolute road map,” said Landrieu, a former mayor of New Orleans.

The book is meant to level the playing field by making it easier for smaller cities, tribal leaders, nonprofits and faith-based groups to compete for money that usually only lobbyists know how to access. The infrastructure deal is unique in its scope as it goes beyond roads and bridges to include such initiatives as broadband internet, replacement of lead water pipes and resilience against climate change.

Administration officials assembled the book quickly as the infrastructure package became law Nov. 15. Copies are available online at build.gov, though the administration is working with associations and direct contacts to make sure it reaches government officials in communities of all sizes. Landrieu said he has already spoken with 43 governors and more than 250 mayors as part of the push.

The infrastructure package includes 375 distinct programs, of which 125 are new. About 60% of the funds are available through formula and 40% through competitive applications. Still, not all of the money will go out immediately as the programs are generally operating on a five- to seven-year timeline.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Dolce & Gabbana to drop real fur

MILAN — Dolce & Gabbana announced Monday that it would drop the use of animal fur in all its collections starting this year, and transition to eco-friendly faux fur.

The Milan fashion house joins other luxury brands, including Armani, Gucci, Prada and Moncler, in adhering to guidelines set by the Fur Free Alliance, a network of animal rights groups around the world.

“Dolce & Gabbana is working toward a more sustainable future that can’t contemplate the use of animal fur,” Dolce & Gabbana communications and marketing officer Fedele Usai said in a statement.

Italy has banned fur farming this year, joining about 20 countries that have either banned or limited fur farming over the past two decades.

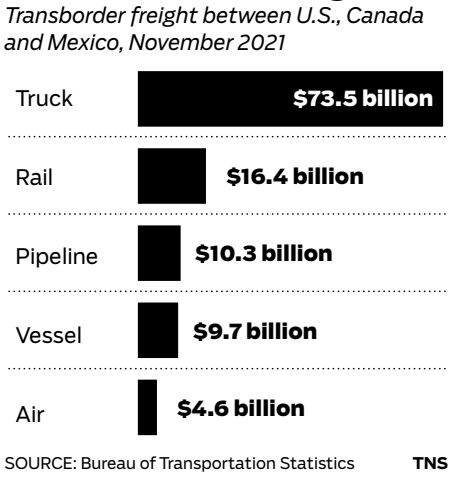
HUD spells out grant priorities

WASHINGTON — The Department of Housing and Urban Development has laid out new guidelines for the disbursement of \$2 billion in disaster-relief block grants, with an emphasis on climate-change mitigation and equity for underserved communities.

The guidelines, published Monday in the Federal Register, spell out specific priorities for the use of the funds by state and local agencies that receive the Community Development Block Grants.

The funds were allocated last year to aid in relief efforts for disasters that took place in 2020 in 10 states and territories. These include: wildfires in California, a dam collapse in Michigan, Hurricane Zeta in Mississippi, and earthquakes and Tropical Storm Isaias in Puerto Rico.

North America cross border freight



Stephanie and Trevor Harnen pose June 2021 in Middletown, New York. The two wed on a Thursday. **ROB ALLEN PHOTOGRAPHY**

Embracing weekday nuptials

More couples save money by skipping weekends as venues still backed up amid pandemic

By **Leanne Italie**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The pandemic forced 30-year-old Stephanie Harnen to twice postpone her wedding. When she finally did get married, in June last year, she settled for a Thursday because her venue was fully booked on weekends.

That turned out to be just fine with Harnen and her husband, Trevor. Most of their 163 invited guests made it, thanks to pent-up vacation time and flexibility working from home. Plus, she saved at least \$10,000, in part by taking advantage of reduced rates at the Middletown, New York, country club where they wed outdoors under an open tent.

“We didn’t want to change venues,” said Harnen, who lives in Stamford, Connecticut. “It was perfect for us. Thursdays are going to be the new Friday.”

She isn’t wrong. With some coveted venues still backed up because of rescheduled weddings, and with more traveling

again for destination ceremonies, an uptick in weekday nuptials has carried into 2022.

“I’ve already been in a Thursday wedding as a bridesmaid,” said Harnen. “Personally, we preferred it.”

Weekday weddings are expected to rise by about 2% this year when compared to pre-pandemic 2018 and 2019, according to a survey of couples using the wedding planning site TheKnot.com. Though most weddings among Knot users planning for this year will take place Fridays through Sundays, about 10% will be held on Mondays through Thursdays.

When it comes to destination weddings, 13% took place on weekdays last year, The Knot data showed.

Kim Forrest, senior editor for the wedding marketplace WeddingWire.com, said the average number of weddings in a year is 2.2 million in the U.S. This year, that number is expected to go up to 2.6 million. With 53 Saturdays in the year, and some venues and vendors struggling to clear pandemic backlogs, “we’re going to see a lot of couples who are encouraged to have their weddings on a weekday,” she said.

Lindsay Forseth, director of weddings and special events at the Salamander Resort & Spa in Middleburg, Virginia, has been

fielding 50% more inquiries for midweek weddings than before the pandemic.

“Most are relatively short term, booking within one to two months of their date,” she said. “Midweek weddings do tend to be of a more intimate size and therefore more flexible on the day of the week.”

Other types of vendors are doling out weekday discounts with success. Andrea Smith, founder of The Band Method, which dispatches singers, musicians and DJs, said weekday gigs offer needed extra income for her artists. In return, she gives couples breaks of 10% to 20% on the cost.

“Musicians and singers on the weekdays, we’re doing a bar gig here and there, but that’s even out now because of COVID,” said Smith, who works in the South Florida and New York City areas.

Kevin Dennis, who provides lighting, decor and other rentals in the Tri-Valley of Northern California, has seen a rise in couples forced to choose a weekday after three or four postponements due to the pandemic. Those couples are competing with couples engaged more recently.

“I joke, we’re becoming like Las Vegas,” he said. “A good 25% to 30% of our calendar is now during the week. It’s starting to feel normal.”

Virus helps slow eurozone’s growth at end of ’21

By **David McHugh**
Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany — The European economy slowed noticeably at the end of last year as surging COVID-19 cases driven by the omicron variant piled on top of supply shortages and rising energy prices that dented consumer purchasing power. The result: An economic winter of discontent that may not lift until later this year.

Much of the slowdown came in Germany, Europe’s largest economy, where difficulty getting parts held back its export-heavy manufacturing economy. France, Spain and Italy showed stronger growth.

In the 19 countries that use the euro, growth in the last three months of 2021

came in at 0.3%, the European Union’s statistics agency said Monday. That compared with growth of 2.2% in the July-September quarter.

For the year, it was 5.2%, underlining how Europe’s economic recovery from the pandemic has moved slower than the rebound in the United States, where 2021 growth was 5.7%. U.S. growth was boosted by what economists say was a comparatively larger share of federal stimulus spending than in Europe.

Europe’s economy is “almost exactly back to its pre-virus size,” but that leaves it “way behind” the U.S., which reached that milestone last year and where output is now more than 3% above what it was in late 2019, said Jessica Hinds, senior Europe

economist at Capital Economics.

A major reason for Europe’s slowdown was spiking COVID-19 cases that led to new and shifting restrictions and deterred cautious consumers from spending money on restaurants, hotels and entertainment. That comes on top of clogged supply chains, which are leaving the eurozone’s export-oriented manufacturing sector unable to fill orders, and higher prices for oil, natural gas and electricity.

Businesses have shown more resilience in dealing with successive waves of the pandemic, helping keep the eurozone from falling into recession and limiting unemployment to 7.2% in the latest reading. But slower growth is compounded by higher inflation, eroding wage increases.

Helen Bennett
Executive Editor
hbennett@courant.com

OPINION

COURANT.COM/OPINION

OP-ED

Are we better off after Biden’s first year?

By Ben Proto

As one crisis after another spirals, it’s hard to believe that it’s been only one year since Joe Biden took office. Just one year ago, our country was experiencing a strong economic recovery, which naysayers never forecasted after the onset of COVID-19. Our international enemies respected us and our military men and women knew they were appreciated. Wages were rising and red tape was being cut for small businesses to thrive. Law enforcement was held in high regard and families slept well at night because of the high priority on safety in their local communities.

Fast forward to the present and we must ask: are we better off after Joe Biden’s first year in office? An honest assessment quickly determines the answer is no.

Biden continuously promised on the campaign trail to “shut down the virus,” but those words have become nothing short of lies to the American people. In fact, this fall he refused to order enough tests before the holidays and waited too long to order enough treatments. Now he admits that COVID is “probably here to stay.” Where was his focus last year? Instead of prioritizing public health and safety, he rammed through a \$1.9 trillion boondoggle spending package that has caused inflation to soar.

We are facing the largest annual increase of inflation in over 39 years, which has lowered real wages and exacerbated rising prices — hitting low and middle class families the hardest. Core consumer prices — excluding food (food prices are on the rise) and energy (energy cost increased more than any other commodity) — rose by 5.5% in the last year, which is the largest increase in nearly 31 years.

Even as supply chain issues ruined much of the holiday season for families, Biden’s administration is still unclear on if the crisis has reached its peak. All the while, 3.1 million workers reported that they are unemployed because their small business employer was forced to close or lost business. It’s understandable then why Biden is not just underwater with Republicans, but “losing confidence from Independents and some Democrats.” Biden is clearly living in an alternate universe because he still



President Joe Biden delivers remarks on the retirement of Supreme Court Associate Justice Stephen Breyer, left, on Thursday in the Roosevelt Room of the White House. **ANDREW HARNIK/AP**

insists that his presidency has delivered “historical results.” The average American family is more financially insecure than ever, and this past year has made it even worse.

Meanwhile, in Connecticut, unemployment remains high. As Republican-led states are combating Biden’s bad policies with common-sense solutions, Democrats like Ned Lamont are only making matters worse.

Another measure where Joe Biden and Democrats have failed is on managing crime. Biden promised to ensure “a safe America...safe from crime and looting.” Across Connecticut, families are looking for solutions while Democrats continue

to weaken the criminal justice system and empower offenders. Juvenile crime, especially, has skyrocketed in the last year, with no relief in sight. From the White House to the State House, Democrats are failing their constituents by ignoring the data and public outcry and remaining committed to their reckless policies and rhetoric that have led to this spike in crime in Democrat strongholds across the country.

Finally, and possibly most disturbing, is Biden’s inability to stand up to Vladimir Putin, plunging us closer to war with Russia. One year and we are faced with too many huge failures by Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. Democrats nationwide refuse to hold Biden accountable, and

voters will remember that this November.

Joe Biden may not be on the ballot this year, but his failures are. Democrats across the nation are shaking in their boots as polling continues to plummet for Biden. Every vote Joe Courtney and Jahana Hayes have taken in lockstep with Biden and Nancy Pelosi — which currently stands at 100% this Congress — whittles away at the displaced hope they had for reelection. As Democrats continue to spiral, Republican candidates are ready to bring about the strongest red wave Connecticut has seen yet.

Ben Proto is the Connecticut Republican Party chairman.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We’ll see if Stefanowski learned from 2018 run

I hope Bob Stefanowski learned some lessons after his first run for governor in 2018. But if he comes out and says the only way to end the COVID-19 pandemic is to eliminate the state income tax, then I will say he didn’t learn a thing.

Thomas D. Witt, Middletown

Stefanowski rants about issues he can’t control

It sure must be nice to have an extra \$10 million sitting around to throw at trying to buy a governorship. Bob Stefanowski’s announcement that he will again seek to replace Ned Lamont as governor stirs up memories of when Lowell Weicker pledged that he would never put in an income tax, only to turn around once elected and strap us with that tax. Added to his promise to relieve us all of taxes on our incomes, he throws out that tidbit about gas prices.

Now, unless he is going to eliminate the tax on gasoline, he, like the president, has no control over OPEC pricing, nor supply and demand. And for his promise to do something about juvenile crimes? This is an area where individual towns are banding together to form police actions to combat it. Again, an area he will have zero control of.

It is very easy to throw out red meat to voters, but sure would be nice to see how he plans to do any of it.

Pam Bergren, East Hartford

Stefanowski must answer these questions

What the people of Connecticut need to know from Bob Stefanowski, and all Republicans running for public office, are the answers to these five questions:

1. Is Joe Biden the legitimate president of the United States?
2. Are vaccines for COVID-19 lifesaving vaccines?

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We welcome all submissions and will publish the best. We especially look for younger writers and those whose voices aren’t heard often enough. Essays should be 600-700 words, written in the first person and emailed to oped@courant.com.

3. Do women have the right to make decisions about their own bodies and health care?

4. Should every eligible voter in our country have access to cast their ballot? Should we allow anyone to vote by mail?

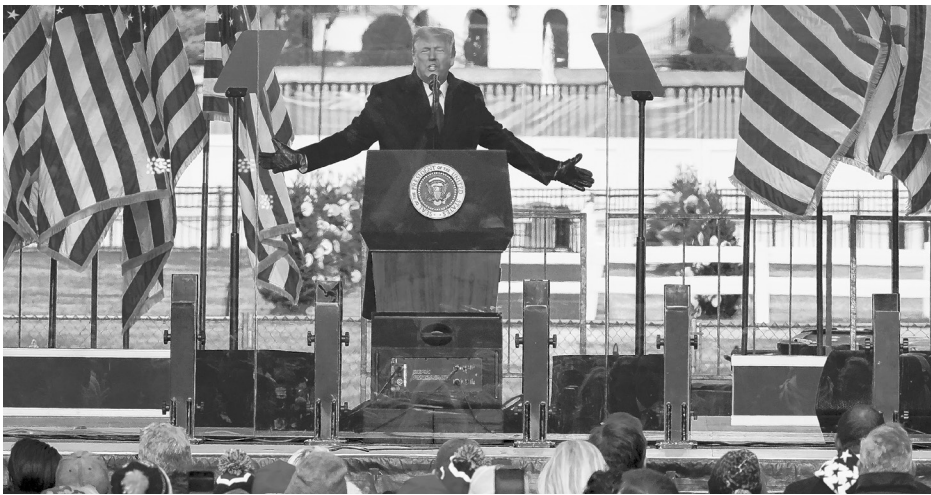
5. Were the actions on Jan. 6, 2021 in Washington by Donald Trump loyalists an insurrection with the goal of undermining democracy and the will of the people? If not, what do you call the actions of that day?

Let us know, Bob, what your answers are, because if you are a believer in lies and conspiracies, then you are not a serious candidate.

Eileen Redden, South Windsor



The first head-to-head gubernatorial debate between Ned Lamont, left, and Bob Stefanowski in 2018. **COURANT FILE PHOTO**



Former President Donald Trump speaks at a rally Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington. **AP FILE**

OP-ED

It’s time for Trump to pay the legal piper

By Edward L. Marcus

Donald Trump has been called as a witness in a number of cases. The committee investigating the events of the Jan. 6 riot has called him as a witness as has the committee investigating the claimed real estate values of the various Trump organizations.

Currently, I am not aware of any committee that wants to indict Trump. Why not?

From an investigative point of view, it is perfectly clear that it would be fair and warranted for Trump to be indicted for any of many potential charges.

Details of the following potential charges already is in the possession of the Washington, D.C., state’s attorney so that office can proceed if desired and without further ado:

a. Obstruction of justice. Trump sat on his hands when the National Guard should have been called to quell the riot.

b. Conspiracy. What did he say to friend Stephen Bannon? Did he urge Bannon to encourage the riotous insurrection?

c. What conversation did Trump have with Rep. Kevin McCarthy? Was McCarthy trying to stop the bloodshed or did he advocate for it? This itself would be an act of conspiracy.

d. Were there really plans to hang Rep. Nancy Pelosi and Vice President Mike Pence? What did Trump and McCarthy know about it? What did they do, if anything, to attempt to prevent it?

e. What was Trump’s involvement in raising money to pay insurrection expenses? Did he raise funds himself, provide funds and/or coordinate fundraising in any way?

f. Trump reportedly asked Pence not to certify the election results. Clearly, there should be notes or transcripts of those conversations available. Trump must provide that information.

g. There were undoubtedly discussions relating to the proposed takeover of the government and notes, transcripts or documents about potential next steps. How were they going to deal with the Army? Did they have conversations with any Army leader in authority to control the military?

In my opinion, information related to the above would be enough to obtain an indictment — an indictment for treason and for conspiracy as well as for plain old obstruction of justice.

Why should Trump be taken out of the indictment mix and not get what he deserves for his actions? Sedition is what Trump was engaged in, let him pay the price. When you have a case like this one where there is sedition and treason why should a former president not go to jail?

Trump will be forced to defend himself against these and potentially other charges. It will be interesting to see what, if any, defense he has.

I truly believe it is in the best interest of the American public that he be indicted. This is what transparency is all about. A president, as we all know, is just another human being. Sometimes our presidents have been flawed in many ways. Sometimes, when we have been lucky, not too flawed to impinge on the person’s ability to govern.

In Trump’s case, we are not talking about some personal flaws. This is a once-in-a-lifetime situation. This is a once-since-the-founding-of-our-democracy situation. Indict and see where it leads. If the facts spell out sedition and treason then so be it. No one should be above the law. No one should be immune to prison if a jury of our peers finds that is proper.

Edward Marcus is former chairman of the Democrat State Central Committee in Connecticut, former state Senate majority leader, and principal of Branford-based Marcus Law Firm.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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sarah vannais UNIT 0347
Hector Rivera UNIT 0178

Contents to be sold on the premises of
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on Wednesday, February 16th, 2022 on
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Purchases to be paid for at the time of
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2/1 & 2/3/22 7133933

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Connecticut

**Development Coordinator for Parkville
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Hartford, Connecticut**

The Capital Region Development Authority
("CRDA"), a quasi-public agency of the
State of Connecticut, is seeking a qualified
contractor to serve as a development project
coordinator in the Parkville neighborhood.
Please see full posting and submission
requirements at: [https://crdact.net/wp-
content/uploads/2022/01/1-27-2022-De-
velopmentCoordinatorParkvilleProjects.pdf](https://crdact.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/1-27-2022-DevelopmentCoordinatorParkvilleProjects.pdf)
1/28 - 2/13/2022 7138105

Connecticut

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2/1/2022 7140778

NOTICE OF DECISION

On 1/18/2022 the Mansfield Planning and
Zoning Commission approved:
- A modification to Mountain View Acres
Subdivision located on Coventry Road to
combine Lots 4,5,6, and 7 into one lot (PZC
1343-2)
- An interpretation of Article 8, Section
B.1.c of the Zoning Regulations relating to a
setback exception for driveways.
For more information, please email plan-
zonedep@mansfieldct.org.
P Aho, Chair
V. Ward, Secretary
2/1/2022 7141325

LEGAL NOTICE

The North Central Area Agency on Aging, Inc.
requests proposals for social service pro-
grams that serve people 60 years and older
in North Central Connecticut under Title III of
the Older Americans Act and the American
Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The project period
for proposals being solicited will run from
October 1, 2022 through September 30,
2023. Proposals are due
MARCH 18, 2022 by 11:59PM Eastern
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public agency may apply. For further informa-
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ncaaact.org](mailto:crystal.bailey@ncaaact.org).
2/1/2022 7141026

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with City of Hartford Municipal
Code Section 29-16, the Hartford Police
Department is in possession of unclaimed
found property for which the owner cannot
be located.
If you believe that some of this property is
yours, phone the HPD Property Room at 860
757-4180 weekdays 7:A.M to 2:30 P.M. Be
prepared to provide a detailed description of
the property, the circumstances of its loss,
and proof of ownership as necessary.
Positive identification is required before prop-
erty will be released. If not claimed, items
may be sold at public auction, destroyed,
donated, or released to a finder.
1/4-3/29/2022 7112251

U-Haul Moving and Storage Company
of Waterbury, will sell household and
personal items, contained in the following
storage rooms due to unpaid storage fees on
Wednesday, February 16th, 2022.

ANTONIO ARAUJO	UNIT 0105
ameka collins	UNIT 2040
Angel Thomas	UNIT 1084
Angel Thomas	UNIT 1085
Angelina Engro	UNIT 1039
Quintin Kinsey	UNIT 0212
Amani Amatus-sabur	UNIT 2047
Solanie alvarez	UNIT 0100
Yolanda Williams	UNIT 2060

Contents to be sold on the premises of
169 Meriden Road, Waterbury, CT 06705
on Wednesday, February 16th, 2022 on
Storageauctions.com and close out at
9:00AM.

Purchases to be paid for at the time of
purchase, a \$100.00 CASH ONLY deposit will
be needed on EACH room purchased. UHAUL
reserves the right to bid or purchase any lot
or space. Auction service provided by www.storageauctions.com
Absolutely NO U-Haul Storage customers, or
their family or friends on their behalf, whose
units are listed in auction, may participate in
any auction proceedings. You MUST contact
Marketing Company Storage Manager, Joy
Pace, for an appointment to purchase any
units won in auction. All persons will be
turned away without an appointment. Contact
Joy Pace with any questions or concerns at
Joy_Pace@uhaul.com
2/1, 2/3/2022 7133814

NOTICE

The Hartford Business Improvement District
is seeking proposals for (1) Signage
Fabrication and Installation; (2) Exterior
Paint and Graffiti Coating; and (3) Banner
Printing and Installation services. RFPs can
be obtained by contacting Jordan Polon at
860-728-2289 or [jordanpolon@hartfordbid.
com](mailto:jordanpolon@hartfordbid.com). Proposals must be received by February
10, 2022 at 3:00pm.
1/29 - 2/1/2022 7138155

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Town of Wethersfield is accepting bids
on the following:
BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE
All proposals must be submitted on forms
and in accordance with specifications
supplied by the Town of Wethersfield,
Purchasing Office, 505 Silas Deane Highway,
Wethersfield, CT 06109. Specification
packages may be downloaded at: [https://
wethersfieldct.gov/finance/open-bids](https://wethersfieldct.gov/finance/open-bids)
Proposals will be received until 2:00 p.m.
local time on March 1, 2022.
2/1/2022 7140962

LEGAL NOTICE

North Central Area Agency on Aging, Inc.
is seeking proposals to provide adult day
care to persons with Alzheimer's Disease or
related dementia. Funding will supplement
aide positions. Eligible applicants include
existing adult day centers with participants
from North Central Connecticut. Proposals
are due MARCH 18, 2022 by 11:59PM
Eastern Standard Time. For further informa-
tion check NCAAA's website ([www.ncaaact.
org/funding](http://www.ncaaact.org/funding)) or contact Crystal Bailey at
860-724-6443 ext.246 or [crystal.bailey@
ncaaact.org](mailto:crystal.bailey@ncaaact.org).
2/1/2022 7141045

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opportunities, career fairs and more.

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OBITUARIES BY TOWN

Berlin

Donald A. Hrenko

Bristol

Peter D. Burke

Ernest C Deal

Maria E Licitra

David M. Mancini, Sr.

Cynthia L. Usher

Sharon J. Wurzinger

East Hartford

John E. Levasseur

Ellington

Patricia Langley

Robert P. Sessions

Enfield

Irene M. Dimattia

Edward S. Tenero

Glastonbury

Lillian M. Mader

Hartford

Roberta H. Bryce

Gwendolyn W. Davis

John E. Levasseur

Fay R. Nathan

Manchester

Leon R. Christiana

Michael Petroski

Middletown

Sr. Agnes H. Murphy

New Britain

Jean Weller

Other Towns in CT

Gloria Makara

Kevin R. Meehan

Out of State

Daniel Durej

Portland

Theresa M. Ferguson

Rocky Hill

John Brown, Jr.

Robert W. Ensign, Jr.

South Windsor

Robert P. Sessions

Parker D. Stockford

Southington

James F. Manware

Edward J. Miron

Cynthia L. Usher

Jean Weller

Suffield

Daniel Durej

Vernon

Patricia Langley

Kevin R. Meehan

Stephen H. Sloat

Waterbury

Ernest C Deal

Sharon J. Wurzinger

West Hartford

Sr. Agnes H. Murphy

Wethersfield

Robert W. Ensign, Jr.

* Denotes name listing only.

Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Brooks, Hugh R.



Hugh R. Brooks, 56, of West Hartford, CT departed this life on Monday, January 17, 2022. Hugh was born on February 24, 1965, in Kingston, JA to Beverly Jenkins and the late Rupert Brooks. A celebration of Hugh's life will take place on Friday, February 4, 2022, at 4:00pm with a visitation from 2:00pm – 4:00pm. To leave a message of comfort for the Brooks family, view the full obituary and livestreaming of services, please visit, www.hkhfuneralservices.com

HKH

HOWARD K. HILL

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Murphy, Sr. Agnes Helen



WEST HARTFORD— Sister Agnes Murphy (Sister Magdalen Marie), a Sister of St Joseph of Chambéry, West Hartford, CT, died at Monsignor Bojnowski Manor in New Britain on January 28, 2022. Born in Hartford, CT, on September 7, 1934, of the late James J. and Mary A. Callahan Murphy, Sister Agnes entered the Sisters of St. Joseph on September 3, 1957. She celebrated her Final Profession of Vows on March 1, 1965. At the time of her death, Sister was 87 years of age and in her 64th year of Religious Life.

Sister Agnes, a graduate of St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing, earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education from Diocesan Sisters College, West Hartford, CT, and a Master Degree in Nursing from the Catholic University of America, Washington, DC. She went on to earn her Master's Degree in Counseling from the University of Hartford, Hartford, CT.

For twelve years, Sister Agnes worked as a staff nurse at St. Francis Hospital, Hartford, CT, serving as Assistant Director of Nursing in Ambulatory Services and in the Emergency Department. Then, a change of ministry took her to the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) in Hartford, where she stepped in as a staff nurse and psychiatric nurse specialist. Always a person to follow an invitation to serve those needing special attention, Sister began ministry as a counselor and education coordinator for the Salvation Army Treatment Center, Hartford, CT. She eventually became the Director of the Clinical Program at Rushford Treatment Center, Middletown, CT. A long-time AA member with a sobriety record of 40+ years, she walked many clients through the 12-Step Program. Sister was a wonderful mentor and support person for hundreds of recovering alcoholics over the years. Keen insight coupled with a direct yet gentle manner earned her the trust of many persons struggling with addiction and recovery.

Another new opportunity presented itself. Sister Agnes accepted an assignment as Program and Retreat Director at St. Joseph-by-the-Sea Retreat Center, South Mantoloking, NJ, sponsored by the Religious Teachers Filippini in Morristown, NJ. Here, she shared her deep spirituality and kindness with people of all faith persuasions and backgrounds desirous of spending time in prayer and retreat at the center. At St. Joseph-by-the-Sea, on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, Sister Agnes caught up again with a favorite hobby and relaxing pastime, that of surf fishing. According to community legend, the fish practically leaped out of the water when she appeared at shore's edge in her L.L. Bean boots with her pole, reel, and bait in hand.

Rushford Treatment Center welcomed Sister Agnes back to their staff on her return to Connecticut. She remained there until she retired from active full-time ministry. Volunteer work followed as she provided professional services at St. James Court 55+ Active Adult Community in West Hartford as a weekly blood pressure nurse and confidant. She also served her religious community as a Sister-Visitor to the Sisters of St. Joseph residing in St. Lucien's Residence in New Britain. In 2021, Sister Agnes moved into the Sisters of St. Joseph Provincial House in West Hartford.

In addition to her Sisters in Community, Sister Agnes is survived by her dear friend and religious companion, Sister Suzanne Brazasukas, CSI, as well as her nephews, Leo Caldarella, Reverend James Caldarella of Old Saybrook, and Mark Caldarella; and her niece Ann (Caldarella) Bache of California. She also leaves behind Sisters Frances Lauretti and Donna Gagliardi, both members of the Religious Teachers Philipinni Community, two special friends with whom she shared years of ministry in New Jersey. Sister is predeceased by her brothers, Richard and James Murphy, and her sisters Jane Dunion, Mary Lavoie, Rita Caldarella, and Sophie Johnson.

While her illness was of very short duration, we wish to thank the administration and staff at Msgr. Bojnowski Manor and the Franciscan Hospice Care for their care and support. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 health conditions and restrictions, a graveside service for family, friends, and Sisters will take place Thursday, February 3, at 10:00 a.m. at the Sisters of St. Joseph Cemetery on Ringgold Street in West Hartford. If unvaccinated, please wear a mask. In lieu of flowers, we ask that you consider a memorial donation to the Sisters of St. Joseph, c/o Office of Mission Advancement, 650 Willard Avenue, Newington, CT 06111. Fisette-Batzner Funeral Home, 20 Bonair Avenue, Newington, has care of the arrangements.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Bryce, Roberta H.



Roberta H Bryce passed into the loving arms of our Lord on January 27, 2022. Roberta was born to William & Elfreda (Beerwort) Hinman on December 22, 1931 in Hartford, CT. She Graduated from Buckley High School- Graduated From Teachers College of Connecticut-Now known as Central Connecticut State College. With a degree in elementary education. She began her career teaching in various schools both west and east of the river. When she met her fiancée & soon to be husband The late William G. Bryce, they made their home in Manchester, where she continued her teaching career until her family came along. Then she took a break to have her children-whom she absolutely loved Robert W. Bryce of Baton Rouge, LA & Sarah B Smith of Manchester whom she absolutely adored & the feeling was mutual.

Roberta is predeceased by her parents William & Elfreda Hinman & Her late husband William G. Bryce & her late brother Lynn W. Hinman.

Roberta is survived by her two loving children Robert W Bryce & his wife Sara of Baton Rouge, LA & Sarah B Smith of Manchester, CT

As well as 2 nieces & 2 nephews Jennifer Hinman of California, Katharine Bosley of Vermont, Peter Hinman of Texas & Bill Hinman of Vermont.

Roberta was a career teacher in the Manchester Public School system for 30 years. She absolutely loved being around her own children as well as the “hundreds” of students she taught, I can remember here saying to me, the “the greatest thing for me about teaching is watching the light come on in a students mind when they GET a concept that I have been teaching!

Roberta had a very active life in addition to spending lots of time with her own children who adored her! She was very active in the Connecticut chapter of ADK Teachers Sorority, as well as in her retirement the local chapter of Christian Women's Club.

Roberta had many interests and activities Roberta attended Central Connecticut State College where she received her Master degree in Learning disabilities. She accomplished this while still holding down a full time job & being a wife & mother of 2 very active teenagers- no small feat.

In her spare time she was an avid reader, she loved to knit, she made beautiful afghans & sweaters.

She also was a beautiful seamstress for her children. She made 2 beautiful gowns for her daughter & many other clothing items that will long be cherished. She also enjoyed doing cross stitch prior to arthritis getting into her joints. She loved cooking for her family gatherings especially pies, in the past her apple pies have been auctioned off for \$25 or more! Mom's chocolate chip cookies were everyone's favorite, she couldn't keep them in her cookie jar, but they were so worth it. She was a lifelong Episcopalian ,Baptized at Christ Church Cathedral Hartford, Her strong faith continued throughout her 90 years. A member of Girls Friendly Society. She faithfully attended church all her life as her faith was extremely important to her. When we moved to Church of St Andrew. The Apostle in Rocky Hill, Fr. Patrick Bush came to see Mom not only at her home, but at Fox Hill Nursing Care center where she came to live.

The family requests that any memorial gifts be made to the Church of St Andrew the Apostle, Rocky Hill, CT. In Roberta's name.

Arrangements are being handled by Holmes Watkins Funeral Home. Calling hours will be Wednesday February 2, 2022 3-5pm at Holmes Watkins Funeral Home, Mass of Christen Burial will be held Thursday February 3, 2022 at 10:00am, St. Andrew the Apostle 331 Orchard St, Rocky Hill, CT 06067, with burial to follow.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Ferguson, Theresa McGreevy



Theresa McGreevy Ferguson passed away peacefully surrounded by family on 1/20/2022. She was the daughter of the late Thomas and Anna (Nugent) McGreevy: she was predeceased by her sisters Mary McGreevy, Ellen McGreevy Clapp, her brother Barney McGreevy, her grandson Manny Ferguson, her daughters Mary Ferguson and Susie Ferguson Starkowski and their father William John Ferguson. She is survived by her brother Thomas McGreevy (Audrey) and his family of Vermont, Nancy McGreevy Remkus, her niece Julieann (Jason) Brazeal and family of Tennessee, her sister Peggy McGreevy Shipkoski and her niece Angela Shipkoski of Long Island NY, her brother John (Katie) McGreevy of Pennsylvania, her niece and nephew Kelly Clapp (John) Stock and Dennis (Michelle) Clapp of Florida, her daughters Dr. Catherine Ferguson (Kenneth) Onouha of Florida, Loretta Ferguson (Michael) Foley of CT, Janet Ferguson of CT, 17 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and one on the way! She is also survived by her close friend Liz Wood and her family of Florida.

Terry was a loving and engaging person who enjoyed traveling to see her many friends and family all over the states. She was an avid traveler both near and far, traveling the USA and Europe many times as well as to China for the 1995 World Women's Conference.

She was a career teacher and loved helping people learn new things. She earned a Master's in Education and was a primary education teacher in the Portland and Middletown school systems. She particularly enjoyed teaching Reading and Social Studies, and wrote grants to support special projects and experiences for her students.

She continued her studies to earn a PhD in Women's Studies. Terry was a local pioneer in the women's movement in the 1970s and 1980s (at least to her 5 daughters and their friends). She was president of the Middletown Chapter of NOW and organized buses and rallies to support the ERA and pay equity. She continued to work for positive changes in the political system to empower women to pursue their interests and achieve their potential, and not be bound by the caste of society that she was born into as a woman. She participated in our local indivisible Chapter that works to serve the food-insecure during the pandemic, and distributed books to local youth to enhance reading readiness and interest in self-thought. An admirer of MLK, she worked toward justice for all, and through the years both taught and lived the ideals of the “Dream”. She supported the Arbor Day Foundation and planted many trees over the years. She supported Planned Parenthood and the services provided by the organization for women's health and family planning. She supported Rosie's Place which is an organization for Women's Shelters. She was also a supporter of St Jude's, St Mary's, and the Veterans.

Born in Brooklyn, NY in 1936 into a loving home her quintessential Irish nature flourished. Family was her core, and everyone is family. She accomplished so much and lived so fully her legacy goes far beyond her family that cherishes her spirit and teachings. The ripple effects of her life and her work will “run along the rivers of [our] memory and keep her ever gentle on [our] mind”. Love you to the sky and back.

Due to Covid the services are private. The Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St, Portland, is in charge of arrangements.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Davis, Gwendolyn W.



It is with great sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of Gwen (Sanborn) Davis, 80, on Saturday, January 29, 2022 after making the best life she could while living with dementia. The disease may have taken Gwen's memories, but it could not rob us of her essence. Gwen was predeceased by her husband, Bill, her mother, Virginia Sanborn, sister Diane Polom and brother-in-law Frank Polom. Gwen was born and raised in Hartford, Connecticut where she met the love of her life, Bill. She often said her life did not begin until that fateful blind date in 1960. Together they raised two daughters, instilling in them the importance of family and a belief that everyone deserves kindness and respect. Gwen held various administrative positions over the years, but her family was her priority. Once her girls were settled in their adult lives, Gwen and Bill moved to Florida to escape the cold winters. They enjoyed 23 years there with wonderful friends and their beloved cat, Rambo. Gwen dedicated her life to serving the Lord and caring for people in every aspect. While living in Florida, Gwen and Bill shared their faith with other Catholics as Eucharistic Ministers, Ministers to the Sick, Crusillio members and as Why Catholic group facilitators. Bill and Gwen's love was immeasurable and evident in every interaction with one another over the years. We take solace knowing Bill and Gwen are finally reunited. Gwen's ‘second life’ began when she moved to Chestelm Health and Rehab. There she lived out her days participating in every event, chatting up her beloved caregivers and flirting with every cute doc that came through her home. We are indebted to the angels that cared for Gwen every day-especially Christine and all of the staff who made her laugh, giggled at her irreverent jokes, or shared stories these past few weeks that brought us peace.

Gwen leaves to cherish her memory her daughters, Colleen (Eric) Sullivan, and Tracy (Kevin) Maher, six beloved grandchildren and their partners: Ryan (Jennifer Vanveen) Sullivan, Jason (Alexa) Sullivan, Caitlin (Patrick) Custy, Meaghan (Theus) Banks, Danny (Brenda) Maher, Kelsey (Sebastian) Maher; six great grandchildren, Brayden, Kenzley, James, Emersyn, Emma and Maddie, who each brought a sparkle to Gwen's eyes; and four nieces-Cheryl, Melinda, Peggy, and Julie -that she loved dearly.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Friday, February 4, 2022 at 11a at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 79 New Park Avenue, Hartford. Burial will follow in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford. Viewing will be held Friday prior to the Mass from 9a to 1030a at the Dillon Baxter Funeral Home, 1276 Berlin Turnpike, Wethersfield. In lieu of flowers, we ask that you emulate Gwen by going out of your way to talk to a stranger, make someone laugh, and cherish your loved ones every day. Donations may be made in Gwen's memory to Chestelm Health and Rehab, 534 Town Street, Moodus, Connecticut 06469. To share a memory with the family, please visit www.dillonbaxter.com



Dillon-Baxter

FUNERAL HOME

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Hrenko, Donald A.



Donald A. Hrenko of Berlin, Connecticut, passed away peacefully Friday, January 28th at the Conklin Building at Hartford Hospital surrounded by the love of his family. He is survived by his life partner, Gladys “Sis” Johnson, his brother, James Hrenko, his nephews, nieces, cousins and many friends who adored him.

At a young age, Don found a love for adventure in the outdoors and a passion for working with his hands. This was exemplified by the cabin he built in Vermont with his late friend, Andy Znosko. Together they spent any time off up at the cabin, fishing in the nearby lakes and snowmobiling through the peaceful green mountains. Don continued to venture to his favorite place with “Sis” for long weekend retreats for the duration of his retirement. Don always had a fascination with small engine machines and worked a long, successful career at Mickey Finn's Honda. A customer could always trust that they would walk away with the exact product they needed with Donald's help. After retirement, you could still find him tinkering around his house and yard each day on his John Deere tractor.

Donald's life was heavily guided by Christian principles. He was a devout Catholic and an extremely active member in the St. Paul's parish. He was generous with his time and always welcoming with his friends and family. One thing he will always be remembered for is his passion for cooking. After his travels around the world, Donald loved trying to recreate the dishes he experienced, and had an extra setting at the table for anyone who wanted to join. Donald enjoyed spending time over a delicious meal, and had many standing donut, lunch, and dinner dates that spanned many years.

Donald was a huge presence in the lives of the Hrenko, Brown, and Farrell children. They were always lucky to get cheered on by Uncle Don at sporting events, musicals, graduations, and birthday parties.

When Don entered the hospital early last year, he fought to return home to his best friend, Sis. His love for her was unparalleled; based on a lifelong friendship of over 70 years that began in grade school.

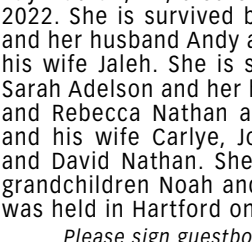
A Mass of Christian Burial is scheduled for Thursday, February 3rd at 10 am at St. Paul's Church, 461 Alling Street, Berlin. Burial will follow in Maple Cemetery, Berlin. The family asks that you take all the covid precautions you can by wearing a mask and social distancing. Calling hours will be on Wednesday, February 2nd from 4-7 pm at Erickson-Hansen Funeral Home of Berlin/Porters, 111 Chamberlain Highway, Berlin. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Paul School in Berlin at <https://ourschool.stpaulkensington.org/support-sps>. Please share a memory of Donald with the family in the online guestbook at www.ericksonhansenofberlin.com

ERICKSON-HANSEN

Berlin

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Nathan, Fay R (Goldstien)



Fay Nathan, 92, died of natural causes on January 25, 2022. She is survived by her daughter, Nancy Adelson and her husband Andy and her son Michael Nathan and his wife Jaleh. She is survived by her granddaughters Sarah Adelson and her husband Richard Nuss, Kimberly and Rebecca Nathan and her grandsons Ben Adelson and his wife Carlye, Jon Adelson and his wife Karen and David Nathan. She is also survived by her great-grandchildren Noah and Emma Nuss. A private funeral was held in Hartford on January 28th.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

OBITUARIES

Mader , Lillian M. (Monty)

Lillian M. (Monty) Mader, 105, of Glastonbury, widow of Everett J. Mader passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January 25, 2022. Daughter of the late Joseph H. and Sarah (Jarvis) Monty, she was born on June 30, 1916 in Sterling, CT. Lillian moved to Glastonbury with her family in 1936 becoming a member of St. Paul’s Church. A graduate of Bay Path Secretarial College, she worked many years at The South End Bank in Hartford. After retiring from the bank, she worked for the law firm, Bayer, Odum and Hyde. Lillian loved traveling, the Rhode Island seashore, a good game of cards and spending time with her family. She volunteered at the Hartford Hospital Auxiliary Store, her church, the town senior center and the Clark House where she would eventually live. Besides her husband, Lillian was predeceased by her son, Paul J. Mader and two brothers, Joseph E. Monty and Harold Monty. Lillian leaves her daughter and her husband, Lenore and Bruce Gilnack of Glastonbury, four grandchildren, Nicholas Mader and his wife, Sarah of Broad Brook, Christopher Mader and his wife Catherine of Hebron, Kevin Gilnack and his partner, Corinne Tobias of Lowell, MA and Laura Robidoux and her husband, Scott of Hebron. She also leaves eight great grandchildren, Evan, Emelia, Damien, Isabella, Trevor, James, Sarah and Ashley, as well as several nieces and nephews. The family will receive friends Saturday, February 5, 2022 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Farley Sullivan Funeral Home, 50 Naubuc Ave., Glastonbury, CT. A prayer service will follow at 12 p.m. Masks are required. Burial will be private and at a later date in St. Augustine Cemetery, South Glastonbury. Memorial donations may be made to the Herbert T. Clark House, 45 Canione Road, Glastonbury, CT 06033 where Lillian found friends, companionship and care the last 14 years. To leave condolences, or for more information, please visit farleysullivan.com


Farley-Sullivan
Funeral Home

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Sloat, Stephen H

Stephen Henry Sloat passed away January 24, 2022. Born December 29, 1955 in Hartford, CT to Elizabeth and Vernon Sloat, he leaves behind his wife, Patricia, sons Taylor & Conner, his sister Joanne and husband John Rankin and niece Anjelica. Steve was a writer, producer, director, photographer, videographer, voice over talent and avid lover of music. His talents left his mark on many projects including Lotcite, Bullfrog sunscreen, Lego and PBS which he won an Emmy award with longtime friend Bruce MacPherson for the music composition “Springer: Orphan Orca”. There are no services per his request. Donations may be made to American Diabetes Association, The CT Humane Society or the Fender Music Foundation.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Sessions, Robert Perkins



Robert (Bob) Perkins Sessions, 82, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Sunday, January 9, 2022. Bob is survived by his loving wife of 33 years, Patricia Sessions, with whom he shared many adventures and travels. (REVISED ARRANGEMENTS) Family will receive friends and relatives at Samsel & Carmon Funeral Home, 419 Buckland Rd., South Windsor, on Thursday February 3rd from 9am – 11am; followed by a service in the funeral home at 11am. Burial will follow with Military Honors at Valley Falls Cemetery in Vernon.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the American Diabetes Association or the Alzheimer’s Association. For online condolences please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com


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Stockford, Parker D.

Parker Davis Stockford, 81, of South Windsor, beloved husband of Lynda (Gordon) Stockford died peacefully on Saturday January 22, 2022, at home surrounded by his family. Parker was born in Lewiston, Maine on January 28, 1940, son of the late Russell and Leslie (Parker) Stockford. He grew up in Winthrop, Maine and was a graduate of the University of Maine and would later earn a master’s degree from Central Connecticut State University. Parker taught math at Rockville High School for over 30 years and retired at age 59. He was a passionate Red Sox fan, something he shared with his family and friends. He loved to play tennis. Along with his wife of over 24 years, Lynda, he leaves his brother, Bruce Stockford and his wife Valerie of Rock Hill, SC; his sister-in-law, Patricia Stockford of Springfield, MO; his stepchildren, Rhonda Tremblay of Manchester, and Ryan Woodcock of Colchester; his grandchildren, Julia Tremblay, Katelyn Tremblay, Dylan Woodcock, and Cody Woodcock; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his son, Shawn Stockford, and his brother, Keith Stockford. A private burial will take place at East Cemetery in Manchester with Military Honors. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the Jimmy Fund and/or any military organization of the donor’s choice. Samsel & Carmon Funeral Home has care of the arrangements. For online condolences please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com

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Durej, Daniel



Daniel Joseph Durej, 72, died peacefully with his wife by his side on Saturday, January 29, 2022, at his home in Suffield, CT following a lengthy and valiant battle with cancer. Dan was born June 16, 1949 in Springfield, MA to Mary and Joseph Durej and grew up in Chicopee, MA. He graduated from the University of Massachusetts in 1971. In that same year Dan married Louise Anne Nadeau. Dan enjoyed a successful career in the insurance industry working at the Aetna and Travelers Insurance companies. Dan is survived by his wife Louise, after celebrating 50 amazing years of joyful marriage; his son Christopher and wife Anna, and his treasured granddaughter, Raine; his sister and brother-in-law Elaine and Ronald Georges; several nieces and nephews and many dear family and friends. In addition to spending time with friends and family, Dan enjoyed numerous interests and activities over the years. Traveling, boating, and his little Yorkie, Izzie, were among the most enduring. After retiring in 2006 and still a kid at heart, Dan found tremendous joy in his three young neighbors whom he and Louise love dearly. He touched many lives with his thoughtfulness, humor, and absolute love of life. Family and friends are invited to attend Dan’s wake on Saturday, February 5, 2022, between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. at the Nicholson & Carmon Funeral Home, 443 East Street N. (Rt. 159), Suffield, CT. A Celebration of Life will be held Sunday, February 6, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. at Nicholson & Carmon Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in memory of Daniel Durej to support cancer research and patient care at: Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, P.O. Box 849168 Boston, MA 02284 or via www.dana-farber.org/gift To leave on-line condolences please visit www.carmon-funeralhome.com


CARMON
Community Funeral Homes

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LeVasseur, John E.



John E. LeVasseur of East Hartford passed away peacefully on January 27, 2022. He was born in Veazie, ME, the son of the late Francis and Barbara (Cormier) LeVasseur. He leaves behind his beloved wife, Jo, who was by his side continuously. He is also survived by his children; Cheryl O’Brien and her husband Sean, James LeVasseur and his wife Christine, as well as his three grandchildren; Mackenzie, and Jillian LeVasseur, and Jake O’Brien. He also leaves a brother, Robert LeVasseur and his wife Ella, as well as a brother in law, William Ranno. He was predeceased by two brothers, Charles and Richard and a sister, Janet. We would also like to acknowledge the mother of John’s children, Patricia Cunette, as well as the many other loyal friends and family that made a significant impact on John’s life. He worked for many years as an Engineer for Amtrak starting in 1969. He finished his career as a general contractor in 2003. John was a hardworking man and was always there to help his friends. He loved to be on the water in his boat where he was an avid skier and taught everyone he knew to ski; family, friends and neighbors. His greatest accomplishments, besides his family, were his vintage mahogany boats and model trains. He will always be remembered for his charismatic eyes and fun-loving spirit. His grandchildren will especially miss their ‘Pepe’. Family and friends are invited for a time of visitation on Thursday, February 3, 2022 from 1:00-3:00pm at the D’Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter Street, East Hartford, concluding with a Prayer Service at 3:00pm. Burial services will be private. For on-line expression of sympathy to the family, please visit www.desopoe.com.


D’Esopo
Funeral Chapel

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Petroski, Michael



Michael William Petroski, 62, of Manchester, died on January 27, 2022. He was born October 22, 1959, at Manchester Memorial Hospital to Joseph L. and Irene Groot Petroski. Mike attended Verplanck Elementary, Assumption Junior High and graduated Manchester High School in 1977. He worked at Holt’s Precision, Inc. for many years as a precision tool technician. Michael enjoyed the outdoors and passed many happy hours adventuring around the Hockanum River. He enjoyed biking and appreciated the Manchester Bike Path. Mike would have told you his primary occupation (and truest love) was being a musician. He got his first guitar from Montgomery Ward as a kid, and never looked back. The countless hours he spent learning and perfecting his craft turned him into a talented composer and guitarist. He was part of the band “Vector Field”, who played and recorded in the Hartford area for several years. His music fulfilled him. For Mike, it provided daily joy and great solace during difficult times. Michael was unfailingly his own man, living life on his terms. A daredevil, he often pushed the limits. He endured many serious life trials and battled personal demons. Underneath his bluster and never-ending confidence, was a gentle soul who deeply loved his family and friends. And they him, and his ready smile, laugh and song. He leaves his brother Mike (Diane) Petroski of Manchester, his sisters Joanne (David) Simson of West Hartford and Susan (William Foran) Lofstrom of Manchester, his brother-in-law Peter Lofstrom, as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. It was a pleasure sharing memories and stories of his life, particularly his band days, with Blaine and Steve. Thanks to Todd R. for his inspiration, and to Mark and Patty for their friendship and caring. Services will be private at the convenience of the family. John F. Tierney Funeral Home has care of the arrangements. Memorial contributions in Mike’s memory can be made to Cornerstone Shelter, 1 Prospect Street, Vernon, CT 06066. For online condolences, please visit www.tierneyfuneralhome.com. Michael, we love and miss you, but are happy you are at peace, playing your heavenly guitar.

JOHN F.
Tierney
TIERNEYFUNERALHOME.COM

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Deal, Ernest C



Ernest “Buster” C Deal Jr., 67, passed away peacefully Saturday, January 29, 2022 after a short but courageous battle with leukemia. Ernest was born and raised in Waterbury, CT and the eldest of six children Laura, Mark, Thomas, Mary and Kim; to Lillian and (late) Ernest Deal. He graduated from Sacred Heart High School and Post University. He worked at AT&T and Comcast throughout his career. Ernest settled in Bristol with his beloved wife Linda Deal and raised their four children; Ethan Deal, Kayla Deal, Jade (Gordon) Gimpl & son in law Christopher Gimpl, and Astra Gordon. One of his favorite things to do was to spend time and talk about his grandchildren Gabriel Kurasz, Connor Gimpl and Hope Allison. His love for family was strong and unconditional. Ernest was loved by all who knew him, he had a big heart of gold. It was so big that in 2013 he received a heart transplant which gave him almost nine more years with his friends and family. Ernest had a love for his Abenaki heritage and would spend lots of time at the reservation in Canada. He also loved to go to the races and work on race cars whenever he could. One of his most cherished memories was spending summers at “The Foxhole” in Maine with family. Ernest had lots of passions through his life and the ability to make very fond memories wherever he went. As Ernest wished, family and friends will have a celebration of life in the summer of 2022.

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Ensign, Jr., Robert "Bobby" W.



Robert W. “Bobby” Ensign Jr., 70, of Rocky Hill, loving son, brother, uncle, nephew, and cousin, peacefully passed away Wednesday, January 26, 2022 in West Palm Beach, FL. Bobby was born August 2, 1951 and raised in Hartford. He was one of three children to Mary Frances (Stefano) Ensign and the late Robert W. Ensign, Sr. He attended and graduated from South Catholic High School. He continued his education, earning a Bachelor’s Degree from Central Connecticut State University. He was a Founding Charter Member as well as a past President of the Wethersfield Chapter of UNICO National. Prior to his retirement in 2009, Bobby was employed by the State of Connecticut as a Mediator for the Superior Court. Bobby was an avid golf enthusiast; during his golf career he proudly achieved two hole in ones. He was a member of Wethersfield Country Club and TPC River Highlands, Cromwell. Bobby was also a huge Yankee fan, many great memories were made at Yankee Stadium including Derek Jeter Day. Bobby enjoyed time spent with his family, he especially shared a special bond with his niece and nephews, they will always remember Uncle Bobby pulling up in his car with the radio blasting his favorite rock tunes. Bobby will be deeply missed and forever remembered by his loving family, his brother and sister-in-law, Richard J. “Rick” and Esther “Essie:” Ensign, and their children, Joey, Annie and Danny with whom he shared a home; his sister, Marilyn Fumia and her husband David of Wethersfield; four aunts and an uncle, Jean D’Amato of Avon, Dolores Stefano, Michael and Lois Stefano and Nancy Abbate, as well as many cousins and lifelong friends. Bobby was predeceased by his nephew and Godson, Mark Robert Rioux, as well as several aunts and uncles. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Thursday, February 3, 2022 at 11:30am at Holy Spirit Church, 183 Church St, Newington. Attendees are asked to go directly to the Church. Interment will follow the Mass in the family plot in Cedar Hill Cemetery (Section 11), Hartford. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations are suggested to Bob’s favorite charity, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. The D’Esopo Funeral Chapel, Wethersfield has been entrusted with the arrangements. To share a memory of Bob with his family, please visit www.desopofuneralchapel.com.


D’Esopo
Funeral Chapel

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Licitra, Maria E



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Maria E. Licitra, 53, of Bristol, who entered into eternal rest on January 15, 2022. Born on November 16, 1968 in New Britain, CT; Predeceased by her parents Itria Johnson and Harold R. Johnson. Maria is survived by her sister “Baby Rose” Rosalie Maurizio, nephew Donte Horton, and her cat Wendy of Bristol, CT, and many Uncles, Aunts, and cousins.

Maria spent her childhood in Terryville before moving to Wallingford in 1983 where she was a 1986 graduate of Mark T. Sheehan H.S. She later attended Connecticut Center for Massage Therapy where she studied wellness massage and was certified as a licensed massage therapist in 2006. Maria opened Creative Hands Massage shortly after. She truly loved the art of massage. She was very devoted to her clients to whom she generously referred to as her friends.

Also known as Mattiooch or Ria, she was an avid outdoors “woman”, she loved hiking, fishing, and spending time by the water. Maria had a passion for gardening, dragonflies, animals, (pretty much all living things), and cooking. One could definitely say she had a green thumb using her herbs in the dishes she made for you - you never left her house hungry.

She was the proud Aunt of Donte with whom she enjoyed spending time with whenever she could, they enjoyed their fishing trips together among many, many other activities.

Maria was an active member of the V.F.W. Post 1979 in Wolcott, CT, volunteering whenever needed. Her passion for taking care of people will be missed - She had the biggest heart and touched the lives of everyone she came into contact with. She will truly be missed.

Family and friends are invited to attend a Memorial Service on Monday, January 31, 2022 at Liberty Baptist Church, 265 Maple Ave, Bristol, CT Calling hours will be from 5:00 to 5:45pm Reception to follow.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Maria’s name can be made to V.F.W. Post No 1979, 1115 Wolcott Rd, Wolcott, CT 06716 or American Lighthouse Foundation, P.O. Box 565, Rockland, ME 04841

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OBITUARIES

Christiana, Leon R.



Leon R. Christiana, 80, of Manchester, loving husband of Suzan (Guerin) Christiana, went home to be with Jesus surrounded by his loving family at his side on Friday, January 28, 2022. Born December 20, 1941, in Hartford to the late Peter and Hazel (Devlin) Christiana. He was a graduate of Howell Cheney Technical School in 1959 and attended Hartford Technical College. Leon enlisted and served in the US Army from 1964 - 1966 as an Airplane Repairman in Vietnam. During his time in the Army, he received numerous medals; Expert Badge (M-14 Rifle), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Aircraft Crewman Badge. He was always proud of his country and was honored to have served. He passed his love and devotion for the USA to his children. He worked several jobs providing for his family including banking. He worked at Sanadyne Corporation, Colts Manufacturing, and retired from Gerber Scientific in 2011. In his retirement, he worked for his daughter, Esther, at All Ways There Home Care. Leon had great faith in God and studied the Bible daily. He spent his lifetime helping those in need and had a great heart for the mission fields. Leon loved the ocean and the Maine coast. He loved to travel and always had a camera in his hand (his love of photography started while in Vietnam by his friend, John Kruggel.) He also loved old cars, aircraft, wood-working and especially, American History. In addition to his beloved wife Suzan, he is also survived by his children Marie (Matthew) Wesson, Allison (Gary) Manville, Ann (Melvin) Tomkowit, Esther Jeffrey, and Richard (Sharon) Tomkowit; his grandchildren Skyler, Savannah, Myles, Paxton, Brooke, Dale, Penelope, Amelia, and Seraphina; his sister Hazel (Chris) Davis, brother Roger Christiana, extended family and many loving friends including Phil, Brian, Neil, and countless others. The family extends a special thanks to the nurses at St. Francis Hospital for being there to hold his hand when they couldn't. Memorial donations may be made to World-Wide Lighthouse Missions, Inc., P.O. Box 5010, Manchester, CT 06045-5010. Family and friends may call on the John F. Tierney Funeral Home, 219 W. Center St., Manchester, CT, on Thursday, February 3, 2022, from 4 - 7 pm. A funeral home service will be held on Friday, February 4, at 11:00 am, followed by burial with military honors at East Cemetery. For online condolences, please visit www.tierneyfuneralhome.com. To livestream the funeral home service, please visit www.facebook.com/tierneyfuneralhome.

JOHN F. Tierney
TIERNEYFUNERALHOME.COM
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IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of
DIANE GERBER

Who died January 30, 2021. I miss her... so much.
George Y.

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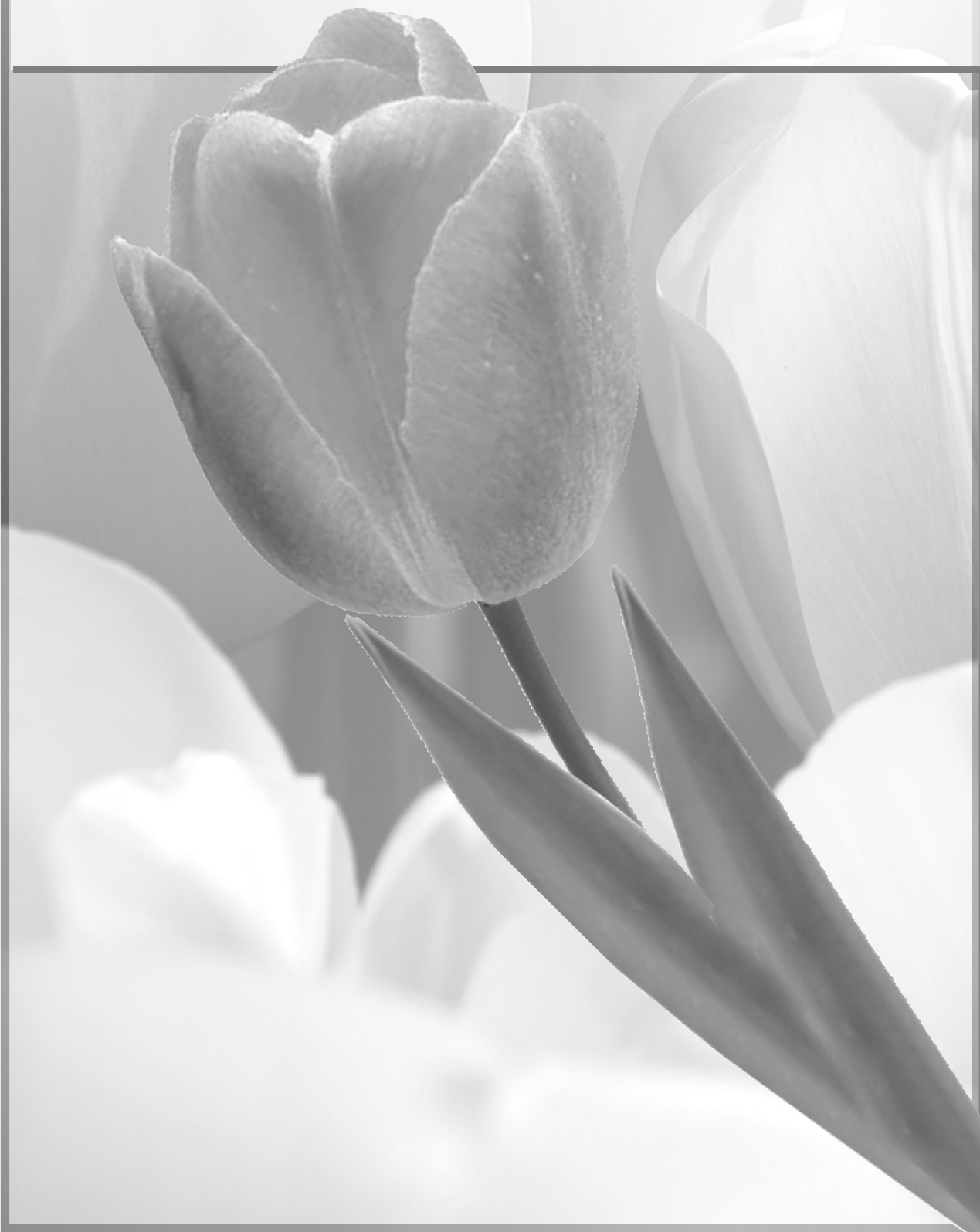


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CONNECTICUT

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BRIDGEPORT

Detectives suspended, boss retires

Pair placed on leave after allegations they mishandled death investigations of two Black women, including Lauren Smith-Fields

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

Two Bridgeport detectives have been placed on administrative leave while police investigate allegations they mishandled investigations into the deaths of two Black women in December. Detectives Angel Llanos and

Kevin Cronin are on administrative leave while an internal affairs investigation is being conducted, Mayor Joe Ganim said in a statement Sunday. Their supervisor, whose name is not included in the statement, retired Friday. "I want you to know that I am extremely disappointed with the

leadership of the Bridgeport Police Department and find actions taken up to this point unacceptable," Ganim said. "After reviewing the matters even more closely and in the absence of the Police Chief, I have directed Deputy Chief [James] Baraja to immediately put on administrative leave the two officers who are the subject of a Bridgeport Police Office of Internal Affairs (OIA) Investigation and [possible] disciplinary action for lack of sensitivity to the public and failure to follow police policy in the handling of these two matters."

He said the investigations into the deaths of Lauren Smith-Fields and Brenda Lee Rawls have been reassigned and are active. Lauren Smith-Fields, 23, died after a man she had met recently online called police Dec. 12 to say he awoke to find Smith-Fields unresponsive. Smith-Field's family said police never notified them of her death, which they learned about more than a day later through a note left on her apartment door by her landlord. The Office of the Chief State Medical Examiner said on Jan.

25 that Smith-Fields' death was caused by "acute intoxication due to the combined effects of fentanyl, promethazine, hydroxyzine and alcohol. The death was ruled accidental. The family said police told them the man who called authorities was not a suspect, but did not say why. The detective eventually asked them to stop calling, they said. The family lawyer, Darnell Crosland, has notified the city of his intent to file a lawsuit accusing

Turn to Detectives, Page 2



MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

ICE FISHING AT DUNNING LAKE

After the weekend snowstorm and single-digit temperatures, ice fisherman Mike Mariano sets a hole in the ice of Dunning Lake at Winding Trails in Farmington. Daytime temperatures will begin hitting the 40s by midweek.

Potential primary for US Senate looms

Candidates seek delegate support

By Christopher Keating
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — On the day after Themis Klarides entered the race, Connecticut Republicans are still determining whether there will be a convention battle or primary for the U.S. Senate seat. Klarides, the former state House Republican leader, is the best-known Republican in the battle against U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a formidable, two-term Democrat who has amassed nearly \$7 million in cash on hand for the race. But immigration attorney Peter Lumaj is not giving up and says he is the conservative alternative to the more liberal Klarides. Lumaj has lost three races for statewide office, but he came within three points of beating Democrat Denise Merrill for Secretary of the State in 2014. The next battle on the calendar is Saturday, May 7 at Foxwoods Resort casino at the Republican state party convention. Lumaj would need 15% of the delegates to force a primary — a number that he was not able to reach when he ran for governor in

Turn to Primary, Page 2



Members of the Hartford Police Department wear masks during the COVID-19 pandemic. COURANT FILE PHOTO

State's anti-racial profiling project has signs of progress

By Tom Condon
CT Mirror

The first time the state tried to halt racial profiling in police stops, it didn't go well. The General Assembly passed an anti-profiling law named for the late Bridgeport State Senator Alvin W. Penn, who championed the issue, in 1999. Police departments were supposed to report their traffic stop data — on paper. But nothing much was done with the data (the paper just piled up), and there was no enforcement mechanism, so many departments stopped reporting it. Then came a major racial profil-

ing scandal in East Haven a decade ago, in which local police disproportionately stopped and harassed Latino drivers. This inspired the solons to revise and strengthen the law in 2012. The new version of the Penn Act, among other things, created the Connecticut Racial Profiling Prohibition Project, whose mission is to identify and address racial and ethnic disparities in traffic enforcement. This effort has worked much better, said former longtime State Rep. William Dyson, who has chaired the Project's advisory

Turn to Progress, Page 3

Stages, museums, libraries to celebrate Black history

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

February is Black History Month, a time embraced by local arts and cultural venues to celebrate contemporary Black achievements by presenting shows and events created by Black artists or centered around the Black experience. Here is a list of events throughout Connecticut in February. Some of the venues have mask mandates, vaccination mandates or both. Also, some events may be canceled or postponed on very short notice as a result of ever-changing COVID protocols. Check websites for details before buying tickets or planning to attend. This list is not all-inclusive.

Theater, stage and comedy

Through Feb. 6: Hartford Stage, 50 Church St., presents Pearl Cleage's "Angry, Raucous & Shamelessly Gorgeous," which "tells the story of four African American women in their 20s, 40s, and 60s who each have a unique perspective on feminism, art, and activism." \$20 to \$100. hartfordstage.org. **Feb. 12 to March 20:** "This Bitter Earth," the story of a Black playwright and his boyfriend, a white Black Lives Matter activist, will be performed at Theater-



Pearl Cleage's "Angry, Raucous & Shamelessly Gorgeous," at Hartford Stage "explores ambition, post-feminism, the generational divide, activism, and who has a right to tell our stories." Marva Hicks, left, and Terry Burrell are shown in the original production at the Alliance Theater in Atlanta, Georgia. Hicks and Burrell are playing the same roles at Hartford Stage. GREG MOONEY

Works Hartford, 233 Pearl St. It stars Harrison David Rivers. \$25 to \$65. twhartford.org. **Museum events and exhibits** **Through Feb. 19:** ArtWalk at Hartford Public Library, 500

Main St., presents "The Adornment Series: Images of Empowerment," an exhibit of work by Michelle Thomas, until Feb. 19. A mask-making workshop will be Feb. 12 from 2 to 4 p.m. and a closing reception will be Feb. 18 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The

Turn to Events, Page 2

CONNECTICUT

Vernon police look for hit-and-run driver

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

Vernon police are looking for a driver of a dark-colored car who they say failed to stop after injuring a pedestrian over the weekend.

The hit-and-run happened about 6:30 p.m. on Route 83, or Talcottville Road, near the intersection with Pitkin Road, police say. First responders found a 32-year-old man who appeared to have been struck by a car. His

injuries are minor, they say. Police say their investigation shows that a four-door, dark sedan, possibly green, struck the man and continued to head north. The pedestrian was in the crosswalk at the time.

Anyone with information about the hit-and-run is asked to call Vernon Officer Ethan Roberge at 860-872-9126, ext. 2025.

Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

Primary

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2018. Klarides said Monday that she could not make any predictions about a potential primary.

“All I know is I’m all in,” Klarides said in an interview. “I can’t tell you what anybody else is going to do. But I’m full speed ahead and continuing with my head down and talking to more people.”

State Republican Chairman Ben Proto said Monday that he hopes that the candidates realize that the foe is Blumenthal — not fellow Republicans. He said he has not spoken to Lumaj and has not asked him to avoid a primary by running for another spot on the ticket.

“I think it’s important for the candidates to focus their fire and focus their campaigns on Dick Blumenthal,” said Proto, who has not made any endorsements at this early stage. “The delegates and the rank-and-file are looking for a candidate who they believe is best suited to take on Dick Blumenthal and to win. The folks who are also running aren’t their adversary. They are just running in the same party.”

Proto added, “Most candidates will figure out, at some point, what the appropriate course of action is to take when the appropriate time comes. These are smart people. They’ll make the right decisions for themselves.”

While Klarides is the best known, she is facing four fellow Republicans. Besides Lumaj, they include Simsbury landscaper and ardent Trump supporter Robert Hyde, and Rowayton resident John Flynn, a former convertible bond trader who holds an MBA in finance and lost two



Republican attorney Peter Lumaj is running for the U.S. Senate seat held by Democrat Richard Blumenthal. Lumaj, who ran a close race for Secretary of the State in 2014, is running against four fellow Republicans as they head toward the party convention on May 7.

CHRISTOPHER P. KEATING

races for the state House of Representatives in 2018 and 2020 by at least 50 percentage points each time. Greenwich resident Leora Levy, one of the state’s top Republican fundraisers and a former nominee to be U.S. ambassador to Chile, is also considering the race. A source close to Levy said Monday that she is likely to make a decision soon.

When he was running for governor in 2018 in a large Republican field, Lumaj won the endorsement of the state’s largest gun-rights group, the Connecticut Citizens Defense League. Lumaj eventually dropped out of the governor’s race, but his early endorsement showed his conservative credentials and his strong defense of the Second Amendment.

Flynn said that he, too, has conservative credentials.

“I’m pro-life,” Flynn said in an interview. “But I’m not as conservative as Lumaj.”

Noting that Klarides had seriously considered running for governor, Lumaj said she had been on an “electoral shopping spree” while spending her own money.

“I know that I am the

conservative fighter that Connecticut Republicans need to take this fight on,” Lumaj said.

Compared to the governor’s race, Klarides’s supporters say she will have many more avenues to collect millions of dollars in fundraising, including political action committees and far more out-of-state contributors. Nationally, many Republicans are battling to break the current 50-50 tie that allows the Democrats to control the chamber with the tie-breaking vote of Vice President Kamala Harris.

“There’s always national interest in a U.S. Senate race because it’s a federal race — and with what’s going on in Washington, particularly with the close numbers,” Klarides said.

Blumenthal has declined comment on Klarides and other Republicans, saying that he is currently focused on his job and will talk about politics later in the year. But he talked about the race in a fundraising email to his supporters on the end-of-the-month deadline on January 31.

“We are operating with the most tenuous possible control of the Senate — with

literally zero margin for error — and Democratic control will vanish if we lose a single seat,” Blumenthal wrote. “I don’t want to begin 2022 by scaling back our campaign efforts — not when I’m up against radical, Trump-loyalist opponents who want to flip this seat. We need to be bolstering our efforts to keep this seat blue and expand Democratic control of the Senate. With everything from reproductive rights to voting rights to climate justice and more on the line, falling short is not an option.”

The national interest has already started as FOX News commentator Laura Ingraham, a former Glastonbury resident, tweeted to her 3.8 million Twitter followers about the race with a link to an article in The Hill, a national outlet that is read closely by political insiders.

“My old home state needs change badly — it’s high taxes, fleeing companies, soaring inflation,” Ingraham wrote. “Save yourselves.”

Klarides responded, “I certainly concur that her old home state needs change badly.”

Christopher Keating can be reached at ckeating@courant.com

Detectives

from Page 1

police of failure to properly investigate.

About 100 people attended a rally in Bridgeport Jan. 24 — which would have been Smith-Fields’ 24th birthday — asking the state to take over the investigation.

“Do you think if a white mother or father had their 23-year-old white daughter die and the last person who saw her was an older Black man that she met on a dating site, do you think that would have been handled in the exact same way?” Democratic city councilwoman Maria Pereira said at the rally. “I’m sorry, I don’t believe that.”

Rawls, 53, who also was Black, died Dec. 12 after going over to a man’s house who lived near her in Bridgeport, her family told NBC News.

Dorothy Rawls Washington, Rawls’ sister, told NBC her family members walked to the man’s house Dec. 14 after days of unsuccessfully trying to contact Rawls. The man told them that he hadn’t been able to wake her up and that she had died.

“Nobody ever notified us that she died,” Washington said. “We had to do our own investigation and find out where she was.”

In his statement and in a Facebook video, the mayor suggested that the detectives may not have followed department policy and apologized.

“The Bridgeport Police Department has high standards for officer sensitivity especially in matters involving the death of a family member,” Ganim said. “It is an unacceptable failure if policies were not followed. To the families, friends and all who care about the human decency that should be shown in these situations in this case by members of the Bridgeport Police Department, I am very sorry.”

Ganim also thanked the attorney representing Smith-Fields’ family, who has been speaking out about her death for weeks, and “thousands of others for reaching out asking the questions that needed to be asked and that still need answers.

“I as mayor, but also as a father, cannot fully comprehend what you must be going through. I can only pledge my continued support to try to ease your pain by getting answers and holding those

responsible accountable.”

Crosland, who represents both families, said in a statement Monday that the city is liable for the behavior of its police department and he is “pleased that the mayor has accepted that liability publicly and has apologized to this family for the suffering they have endured.”

But the mayor’s words took too long, he said.

“It’s been over a month, and in that time the family has had to grieve and advocate for justice at the same time. That is unfair and unacceptable. People from across the country and around the world heard our cries for justice yet the city of Bridgeport did not,” Crosland said.

Still, he said, “The mayor’s statement today is a step in the right direction.”

A police union leader could not be reached for comment Monday morning.

In February 2014, the department announced that Cronin had been awarded the Police Distinguished Service Medal, the department’s highest service award, for establishing “a pattern of distinguished service through serious incidents too numerous to mention.” Police said he solved robberies, crimes with child victims and made gun arrests.

Although Ganim didn’t refer to her by name, Acting Chief Rebeca Garcia has been in charge of the Bridgeport Police Department since Sept. 10, 2020, the day former Chief Armando “AJ” Perez, a longtime friend of Ganim’s, was arrested. Perez and the city’s personnel director, who also was arrested, were accused of fixing the process that made him chief.

Federal investigators found that Perez cheated on a promotional exam for the top job and repeatedly lied about it. He was sentenced to a year and a day in April 2021; former Personnel Director David Dunn also was convicted.

The former chief was expected to serve his sentence in a low-security prison camp in Pennsylvania. Perez was a confidant of Ganim’s and was his official city driver before the mayor himself served seven years in prison in the 2000s in an unrelated corruption scandal.

A report from Associated press was used in this story.

Christine Dempsey can be reached at cdempsey@courant.com

Events

from Page 1

Hartford artist “creates large-scale works that use ceramic mask making techniques and found objects to create sculptural portrayals of people of African descent in the United States in order to connect these communities to deeper, more diverse, ancestral roots before slavery and combat imagery that denigrates the history of Black people in America.” hplct.org.

Through Feb. 18: Sterling House Community Center, 2283 Main St. in Stratford, will present the exhibit “Through Our Eyes: A Celebration of Local Black Artists.” Free. artsallianceof-stratford.org.

Through Feb. 28: Mystic Seaport Museum, 75 Greenmanville Ave., will host talks about Lewis Temple, an African American blacksmith and abolitionist who invented a state-of-the-art whaling harpoon, all month for visitors on the ship Charles W. Morgan. Also, an outdoor exhibit, “The Sea Connects Us,” highlights achievements of African American and Indigenous people in U.S. maritime history. \$19, \$16 youths. mysticseaport.org.

Through April 3: Amistad Center for Art & Culture, inside the Wadsworth Atheneum at 600 Main St. in Hartford, is showing the exhibit “Changing Lanes: Mobility in Connecticut.” The show, inspired by Gretchen Sullivan Sorin’s book “Driving While Black,” focuses on the historical barriers to African-American mobility. Admission is free with admission to the Atheneum. amistadcenter.org.

Through May 1: New Britain Museums of American Art, 56 Lexington St., presents “People and Places in America, 1960s to Today,”

until May 1. The show of work by artists of color and other marginalized people includes Romare Bearden, Elizabeth Catlett, Jacob Lawrence, Faith Ringgold, Betye Saar, Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, Martine Gutierrez, Rashaad Newsome and Iké Udé. \$15, \$12 seniors, kids free. nbmaa.org.

Jan. 28 to June 18: Fairfield University Art Museum, 1073 North Benson Road, presents “Adger Cowans: Sense and Sensibility.” Cowans co-founded the group Kamoinge, whose mission is to “honor, document and preserve the history and culture of the African Diaspora with integrity and insight for humanity through the lens of Black Photographers.” fairfield.edu/museum.

Music

Feb. 4: Bijou Theater, 275 Fairfield Ave. in Bridgeport, presents “Bridgeport, This Is Us! A Celebration of African American Musicians,” at 8 p.m. Performers are James Moss, Darian Cuning, Mark Matthew, The Steve Clarke Band with Pat Marafioti, Chris Stanley & Thom Adams, MDIII/Michael Dunham, Janice Dempsey, Tiffany T’Zelle Wilson and Nate Barnes. \$15. bijoutheatrect.spacecrafted.com.

Lectures, library events and conversations

All of February: Bloomfield Public Library has a monthlong series of virtual events about Black issues and art forms. Topics range from Afrofuturism as a creative force to apartheid, Black fatherhood and a talk about Octavia Butler’s “Parable of the Sower.” Sign up at bplct.evanced.info/signup/.

Feb. 2: “Critical Race Theory: What It Is and What

It Isn’t” is a lecture by retired Connecticut Superior Court Judge Angela C. Robinson at 1 p.m. in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom at Southern Connecticut State University, 501 Crescent St. in New Haven. Free. calendar.southern-ct.edu.

Feb. 2: Hartford’s L.I.T. Global; Lit Artists, Writers & Publishers presents “Icon Stew: August Wilson, Lit Impact & the Stage” on Feb. 2 at 6 p.m. on Facebook Live. Free. facebook.com/HartfordsLIT.

Feb. 2, 9 and 16: “Only the Ball Was White: The Negro Leagues and Their Place in American History” is a talk series from 7 to 8:15 p.m., virtually on Zoom, presented by University of Hartford. President Emeritus Walter Harrison will discuss Negro League executives Rube Foster, Effa Manley, Cumberland Posey and Gus Greenlee. Free. hartford.edu/about/diversity-inclusion/mlk-observance.aspx.

Feb. 3: Silas Bronson Library in Waterbury will present actress Tammy Denease portraying Sarah Margu in a one-woman virtual show from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Margu was an Amistad captive as a child. The show is geared toward all ages. Free. To register, visit bronsonlibrary.org/kidprograms.

Feb. 3: Danbury Library will present storyteller Len Cabral for “Weaving Words Connecting Cultures,” a virtual show for teens, from 6 to 7 p.m. Free. To register, visit danburylibrary.evanced.info/signup.

Feb. 5, 12 and 19: Windsor Historical Society presents a three-part virtual program, “Seek and Ye Shall Find: Afro-American & Caribbean Genealogy with Sandra Taitt-Eaddy” from 2 to 3:30 p.m. \$10 per session or \$25 for all three. Sign up at windsorhistoricalsociety.org.

Feb. 8: “The Imperative of the Beloved Community,” with keynote speaker

Yamiche Alcindor, at noon, virtually on Zoom. The event is presented by University of Hartford as part of its 2022 Annual MLK Observance. Free. hartford.edu.

Feb. 10: “An Upside-Down World: The Reign of Black Governors in Connecticut,” a discussion with historian Kerima Lewis, from 6 to 7 p.m., virtually on Zoom, presented by New Haven Museum. Free. eventbrite.com.

Feb. 10: A Zoom historical talk, “Beyond the Amistad: Black History at the Connecticut Historical Society” from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The event is presented by Bridgeport Public Library. RSVP at bit.ly/3euLCMK for Zoom link. facebook.com/bridgeportpubliclibrary.

Feb. 15: “Race in America: From the Civil War to 21st Century America” will be presented virtually o 6 to 8 p.m. Howard Wright portrays Abraham Lincoln and Michael Crutcher portrays Frederick Douglass. The show will be moderated by CCSU history Prof. Matthew Warshauer. avonctlibrary.info.

Feb. 15: Connecticut Women’s Hall of Fame presents a Zoom talk, “Connecticut’s African American Heroines” from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Among women discussed are women’s rights advocate Maria Miller Stewart, singer Marian Anderson, journalist Adrienne Baughns-Wallace and former State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier. Free. Snow date is Feb. 22. RSVP at bristollib.com.

Feb. 17: “Let it Shine: The American Civil Rights Movement,” a 45-minute historical production, will be presented at 2 p.m. at Wood Memorial Library, 783 Main St. in South Windsor. \$15, \$5 students. woodmemoriallibrary.org.

Feb. 18: “Activism Through Action: Moving Beyond a Hashtag,” a talk with racial justice activist

Zyahna Bryant from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m., virtually on Zoom, presented by University of Hartford as part of its 2022 Annual MLK Observance. Free. hartford.edu.

Feb. 21: “From Martin Luther King to Nelson Mandela: The Global Vocabulary of Black Liberation,” a talk by Dr. Garrey Michael Dennie from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m., virtually on Zoom, presented by University of Hartford as part of its 2022 Annual MLK Observance. Free. hartford.edu/about/diversity-inclusion/mlk-observance.aspx.

Feb. 23: Connecticut Historical Society offers a virtual presentation, “Black History at the CHS,” focusing on “a spectrum of the Black experience in Connecticut” from 7 to 8 p.m. Free. Register at chs.org/event/blackhistory.

Feb. 24: The Second Annual Celebration of local African American authors including London Williams, Shelby Davis and Chemay James at 5:30 p.m., virtually, presented by the Silas Bronson Library in Waterbury. Appropriate for all ages. Free. Register at bronsonlibrary.org.

Feb. 24: Connecticut Science Center will present a virtual Straight Talk, “The African Ancestry Identity Experience,” with Dr. Gina Paige, co-founder and president of African Ancestry, Inc., at 6 p.m. Admission is pay-as-you-wish, and those who want to participate free are welcome. shop.ctscience-center.org/73577.

Feb. 25: CT Forum and Connecticut Humanities present “The Fight for Racial Justice: Reckoning with and Dismantling Systemic Racism” at 7:30 p.m. at Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, 166 Capitol Ave. in Hartford. Panelists include writer-comedian-activist Baratunde Thurston, poet Cathy Park Hong and politician Julian Castro. \$15 to \$90. ctforum.org.

Feb. 26: Journey Writers will do a virtual dramatic reading o a story about queer Black history, “I Put a Spell on You,” at 7 p.m. Suggested donation is \$10. To find the link, visit journeywriters.org.

Feb. 27: Hartford’s L.I.T. and Hartford Public Library present “Hartford Reads in Color,” a virtual book talk on Zora Neale Hurston’s “You Don’t Know Us Negroes and Other Essays” at 2 p.m. Register at programs.hplct.org/events.

Miscellaneous

Feb. 3: Every Kinda Lady and When Women Speak will mark Black History Month with three free virtual writing workshops on Feb. 3, 10 and 17 from 7 to 9 p.m. For details, email Nzima Hutchings at everykindalady@gmail.com.

Feb. 12: Ujima African American Alliance will hold a Black History Fundraiser, to raise money for a June-teenth event, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Enfield Public Library, 104 Middle Road. The event will feature authors Frederick Douglass Knowles III, Laresse Harvey and Trinene Davis. Admission is free. Donations are welcome, and 10% of proceeds will buy Black literature for the library. Details on Ujima African American Alliance’s Facebook page.

Feb. 15: Black History Art Club: Black Lives Matter from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. virtually. The club is geared toward ages 6 to 12, who learn about art created for the Black Lives Matter movement and create their own Black Lives Matter art to be displayed at the downtown branch of Hartford Public Library. hplct.org/events.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

CONNECTICUT

Carbone’s owner: Replenishing depleted federal aid fund could help Hartford restaurant reopen

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal joined Hartford restaurant owner Vinnie Carbone on Monday at Carbone’s shuttered Hartford restaurant to call for federal aid that might help the institution reopen.

Carbone is one of 2,066 state restaurant owners whose pleas for Restaurant Revitalization Fund grants were passed over last spring. His flagship restaurant, Carbone’s, was a hangout for politicians and businesspeople for decades before the coronavirus pandemic forced its closure. It shut its doors on March 16, 2020.

Carbone said the Franklin Avenue restaurant, which was founded in 1938, may reopen if he gets a grant.

“It would be a huge help if it were refunded. But we would still have to time it out intelligently. We’d have to play it by ear to see what shapes up,” Carbone

said. “The grant would be helpful, corporate coming back to the city would be helpful, no more variants would be helpful.”

Carbone’s plight is similar to restaurants nationwide and statewide. According to a January poll of restaurateurs conducted by the National Restaurant Association, 94% of owners who didn’t get a grant said if the fund was replenished and they got a grant, they could retain or hire back employees.

The \$28.6 billion RRF was part of the American Rescue Plan. Nationwide, 278,304 restaurants applied for a total of \$72,233,280,031. But just 101,004 of the applicants were awarded grants, according to the Small Business Administration.

In Connecticut, 3,369 Connecticut restaurants applied for grants totaling \$790 million. Of that, 1,303 received funding, totaling \$301,164,069. The remaining 2,066 restaurants were passed over.

Carbone emphasized that restaurants in the city — which

lost their daily corporate clientele when working from home became the norm in March 2020 — in general suffered more than suburban restaurants. He owns two other eateries, one in Bloomfield and one in Rocky Hill, which were kept open with the help of Paycheck Protection Program funding.

“It’s the city restaurants that really need the help the most,” he said. “Right now it’s looking like corporate coming back will happen, at least partially, at the end of March. That’s waiting to be confirmed. That will be so important.”

For months, Blumenthal has called for the fund’s replenishment. Following release of the NRA poll, he’s taken up the issue again.

“Much as a clock has a main-spring, our economy has restaurants as a driving economic force, a measure of how well we will do in the future,” he said.

In his comments, Blumenthal got nostalgic about Carbone’s.



Customers are provided space and name tags to identify their private bottles in the wine room at Carbone’s. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

“I remember with huge fondness and excitement coming here, breaking bread,” he said. “One of the great traditions that brings us together is breaking bread. It brings us together across party lines, as I found many lunches here did, when I was in the state legislature, when I was attorney general.”

Scott Dolch, president and CEO of the Connecticut Restaurant Association, said Carbone’s “is like the G Fox building. ... If these walls could talk, they would have amazing stories to tell.”

Carbone said he made plans to reopen months ago.

“Then when the delta variant hit, corporate got pushed off, we decided just to pump the brakes, because you can’t act with your heart ... if you make business decisions,” he said.

Carbone remembered the restaurant’s glory days and its clientele.

“Republicans and Democrats would be filled in here for lunch and they’d be shaking hands across the aisle to get things done. So I’m very happy to hear that this is a bipartisan bill,” Carbone said.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Weekly test positivity below 10%, a first since late December

1,000 hospitalizations ‘still terrible,’ Hartford HealthCare doc says

By Eliza Fawcett
Hartford Courant

Connecticut continued to see declines in its number of COVID-19 hospitalizations and its weekly test positivity rate over the weekend, reflecting the steady retreat of the recent omicron surge.

On Monday, the state’s weekly test positivity dropped below 10% and hospitalizations fell below 1,100, both for the first time since late December.

But Dr. Ulysses Wu, the chief epidemiologist of Hartford HealthCare, cautioned against prematurely celebrating the state’s victory against omicron. While Connecti-

cut’s number of COVID-19 hospitalizations are “pretty good” compared to earlier this month, when the metric approached 2,000, “1,000 is still terrible,” he said.

“Even though the numbers are coming down very nicely, when you take an overall perspective, they are still remaining very high at this point,” he said.

Cases and positivity rate

Connecticut reported 3,330 new COVID-19 cases out of 45,449 tests administered over the weekend, for a daily positivity rate of 7.33%. The state’s seven-day positivity rate now stands at 9.94%, reaching its lowest point since Dec. 27.

All eight Connecticut counties — along with nearly the rest of the country — are still recording “high”

levels of COVID-19 transmission as defined by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. With this level of transmission, the CDC advises people to wear a mask in public indoor settings.

Hospitalizations

As of Monday, Connecticut had 1,051 patients hospitalized with COVID-19, a decrease of 141 patients since Friday and the lowest hospitalizations have been since Dec. 28.

Hospital officials say some patients hospitalized with COVID-19 were admitted for non-coronavirus reasons before testing positive upon arrival but that a majority have significant COVID-19 symptoms.

According to the state, 54% of people hospitalized with COVID-19 are unvaccinated. Hospital officials say the rate is significantly higher

when considering only patients with severe symptoms.

Deaths

Connecticut reports COVID-19 deaths on Thursdays. Last week, the state reported 225 deaths, bringing its total during the pandemic to 9,908.

COVID-19 deaths — which typically tend to lag other metrics by several weeks — have continued to increase in recent weeks even as cases and hospitalizations have slowed. Unvaccinated people in Connecticut have been about 13 times more likely to die from COVID-19 in recent weeks as those who are vaccinated, according to state numbers.

The United States has now recorded 885,103 COVID-19 deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns

Hopkins University.

Vaccinations

As of Monday, 92.5% of all Connecticut residents and 95% of those 5 and older had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, while 76.6% of all residents and 80.7% of those 5 and older were fully vaccinated, according to the CDC.

Additionally, about 50.9% of fully vaccinated Connecticut residents 18 or older have received a booster dose.

The CDC warns that booster shots are sometimes misclassified as first doses, likely inflating the reported number of first-dose coverage and understating the true number of people who have received boosters.

Eliza Fawcett can be reached at elfawcett@courant.com.

Progress

from Page 1

board since its inception.

“We recognized what happened before: There was no analysis of data, no resources, no teeth in the law and no sense of urgency,” he said.

In addition to reducing racial disparities, the system now could lead legislators to consider a significantly different approach to traffic stops.

Better data

Since 2013, Project staffers have examined 3.5 million traffic stops by the state’s 107 law enforcement agencies, which now are required to file traffic stop data to the state’s Criminal Justice Information System each month. The Project team developed a standardized, electronic, multi-part — and mandatory — model of data collection and analysis, then used it to determine which communities had the greatest racial and ethnic disparities in traffic stops. The project staff has since visited more than two dozen Connecticut communities (and a few in Rhode Island) to find out what was driving the disparities.

The results are promising. The research has helped reduce racial disparities in several communities while improving police effectiveness. That has been accomplished by encouraging police to focus almost entirely on roadway safety and not use traffic stops as a pretext to address other issues.

With speeding out of control and traffic fatalities at their worst in two decades, more safety enforcement would appear to be warranted.

“We’re not talking about less enforcement, we are talking about better enforcement,” said Kenneth Barone, who is the manager of the Connecticut Racial Profiling Prohibition Project and also associate director of the University of Connecticut’s Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy.

Research by Barone and his staff will support a proposal in the upcoming session of the General Assembly to create a two-tier system of traffic stops, to discourage stops for administrative or minor equipment violations.

Before the pandemic, state and local police together were making upwards of 500,000 traffic stops a year. The number dropped from

512,000 to 242,000 from 2019 to 2020, mostly due to fewer stops by state police. Barone said preliminary data suggests the number will increase to more than 300,000 stops for 2021 but will still be about 200,000 short of the pre-pandemic numbers.

But of those earlier half-million stops, about 80,000 were low-level equipment issues and another 65,000 for administrative issues such as expired registration, according to his team’s analysis of CJIS data.

The motor vehicle code has hundreds of provisions, some of which might be viewed as nitpicky. For example, a license plate must be fully in view, so if a license plate frame, which often extols the driver’s alma mater or car dealership, partially blocks the word “Connecticut” at the bottom of the plate, it is illegal.

What’s happened for years, here and across the country, is that some officers will pull drivers over for a blocked plate, broken taillight or whatever, and then ask to search the car for drugs, weapons or other contraband. Barone said the practice began in the “war on drugs” in the 1980s and ‘90s. Though it was about as effective as the war on drugs itself, which is to say not overwhelmingly, the practice of “pretextual policing” continued.

The anti-profiling project’s research indicates Black and Hispanic drivers are stopped at a greater overall rate, and at a greater rate for equipment violations and administrative offenses, than White drivers, though there is no evidence that Black and Hispanic drivers commit these offenses more frequently.

Barone prefers the term “racial and ethnic disparities” instead of “racial profiling,” because the latter implies purposefully discriminatory policing, when they can be other causes for disparities. Some examples are illustrative:

DUI squad

Newington made the anti-profiling project’s second list of towns with significant racial disparities in profiling, in 2016. Anti-profiling researchers learned that nearly 40% of the town’s traffic stops were for defective lighting violations. These, it turned out, were mostly the work of a mobile unit looking for DUI offenders.

The effort may have been well-intended, but it apparently wasn’t terribly effective. The

research team examined 1,608 traffic stops made for defective lighting and found only one driver had been charged with a DUI.

When presented with the data, the department put more focus on moving violations, a change that paid off. From 2015 to 2019, defective lighting stops dropped by 67% and citations for moving violations increased by about 60%, Barone said.

This resulted in a 250% increase, from 18 to 63, in stops that resulted in a DUI arrest. The majority of the violators, perhaps not surprisingly, were drivers who weaved across the center line. What makes the Newington example significant is that the change in policy greatly reduced racial and ethnic disparities in traffic stops, Barone said.

Newington police chief Steve Clark said in a recent interview that the department also has been working with the Center for Policing Equity, a nonprofit that works to eliminate bias in law enforcement, and said “it has made a difference.”

Variations of the Newington scenario have played out in some other communities, according to Barone’s research. In Hamden, police were using enhanced traffic enforcement to address crime in a primarily Black neighborhood with a relatively high rate of crime and calls for service.

Officers would stop cars for low-level equipment and administrative offenses and ask to search the vehicle: 22% of drivers were stopped for equipment violations and 18% for administrative offenses such as expired registration, well above the state average of 12% and 9%, respectively. This strategy was not implemented elsewhere in the community.

They rarely found contraband — in less than 7% of vehicles — and when they did, it was usually a small amount of marijuana. There was no evidence the tactic was reducing crime.

After meeting with researchers and members of the community, the department changed the policy, focusing it narrowly on hazardous driving behaviors. The change coincided with a 5% drop in crime and a 10% reduction in accidents, and the seizure of more contraband.

In an effort to address a statewide increase in unregistered vehicles, Waterbury police deployed license plate reader technology

to identify drivers with no registration. Much of the enforcement activity was in the lowest-income neighborhoods, where residents were largely Hispanic.

Researchers demonstrated that registration violations were at the same level or higher in other parts of the city, including whiter neighborhoods.

The data also showed that patrolling Hispanic neighborhoods was driving the racial and ethnic disparity in traffic stops. When the city adopted a more broad-based approach, the disparity was greatly reduced, Barone said.

Border patrol

In Wethersfield, researchers found a pattern of local police stopping Black and Hispanic motorists as they crossed into the town, particularly those coming from neighboring Hartford. Most of the stops were for minor equipment or administrative issues.

The research report, issued in June, found that the likelihood a Black motorist would be stopped by Wethersfield police increased by more than 13 percentage points and the likelihood a Hispanic motorist by 15 percentage points after they crossed the border from Hartford. Toward the center of town, enforcement became more oriented toward traffic safety issues such as speeding and reckless driving.

The report says that while other factors may have applied, the “first and foremost” reason was discriminatory policing.

The Wethersfield department has had a recent change in leadership. Barone said he has begun regular meetings with new chief Rafael Medina III, whom he described as “very open” to using the data to inform policy. The Hartford residents crossing the border were mostly going to a supermarket, Barone said. He said the same pattern of border patrolling has emerged in some other inner suburbs.

Not all chiefs share Medina’s attitude, or at least they didn’t when the project began. Several pushed back against one of the project’s metrics, called “estimated driving population,” which uses employment, commuting and census data to estimate who is on the road at a given time. Chiefs complained that pass-through traffic in many towns made the measure too imprecise to be useful.

Barone said it was one of seven different tests, and not a major one, for measuring racial disparities. Put all seven into a “preponderance of the evidence” context, and the results are pretty accurate, he said. And, good news, the racial disparity numbers have been dropping for the past three years.

“We had to win trust (with police). We had to get across the idea that we weren’t out to get them but to help them solve a problem,” said Dyson.

Restrictions on what police can do

A Police Accountability Bill passed by the legislature in 2020 addressed traffic stops in a couple of ways. For one, the bill ended “consent searches,” in which an officer pulls a driver over and asks for the motorist’s consent to search the vehicle. Now, and officers can only search a vehicle if they have probable cause, or if the driver gives “unsolicited consent.”

The change has been in effect since October 2020. Barone said he won’t know until 2021 data is available, but he thinks the new policy will reduce racial disparities in traffic stops, because consent searches are a major driver of disparities.

Also, the accountability bill broadened the scope of the Police Transparency and Accountability Task Force, established in 2019, and directed the task force to examine several issues, including whether the state should adopt a primary/secondary traffic stop system.

A primary traffic offense is a violation such as speeding or reckless driving for which a police officer can stop a driver and issue a ticket. In the case of a secondary offense, an officer can issue a citation only if there’s some other valid reason to stop the driver.

This would mean that an officer could not pull someone over for, say, a slightly obscured “Connecticut” on the license plate but could add it to the charges if the driver is pulled over for speeding.

One state, Virginia, and some municipalities have adopted the primary/secondary system. It will be part of a package of proposals Connecticut’s accountability task force will present to the legislature in the upcoming session.

This reporting was made possible, in part, through generous support from Robert W. Fiondella and the Fiondella Family Trust.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Benjamin Alfred Eckersley, Late of Missouri (22-0011)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated January 20, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Marge B. Calltharp, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
STEVEN M ALLINSON, ALLINSON & ASSOCIATES, LLC, 439 MAIN STREET, YALESVILLE, CT 06492
2/1/2022 7139192

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated:
50 Olesen Rd
Wethersfield CT 06109
860-266-3184
Auction Date- Feb 8, 2022 1:00 PM
3036 Biggees Merchandise House goods
6224 Stephanie Colon House goods
The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.
1/25/22, 2/1/22 7124088

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Phyllis M. Preneta (22-00046)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated January 26, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Rosemarie Preneta
c/o DEBORAH M ROSE, KLEMONSKI & ROSE LAW OFFICES, LLC, 67 PROSPECT AVENUE, SUITE 302, HARTFORD, CT 06106
2/1/22 7138236

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Thomas J. Swistro (22-00051)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated January 26, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Nicholas Swistro
c/o PATRICK EDWARD SCULLY, SCULLY NICKSA, & REEVE LLP 79 MAIN STREET, UNIONVILLE, CT 06085
2/1/22 7137923

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF William P. Atkinson, Late of CLINTON (22-0006)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated January 18, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Helene Yates, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Laverne C. Atkinson
c/o JOHN DUNLOP WATTS, 781 BOSTON POST ROAD, P.O. BOX 502, MADISON, CT 06443
2/1/2022 7139313

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Benjamin Berry Eckersley, Jr., AKA Benjamin Eckersley (21-0784)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated January 20, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Rosemary L. Nolin, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
STEVEN M ALLINSON, ALLINSON & ASSOCIATES, LLC, 439 MAIN STREET, YALESVILLE, CT 06492
2/1/2022 7139191

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated:
132 Silas Deane Highway
Wethersfield, CT 06109
860-916-0534
Auction Date- Feb 8, 2022 1:00 PM
396 William Dlugoleski Housegoods
272 Robert Hopkins Housegoods
312 Deborah Walsh Housegoods
180 Patricia Kennedy Housegoods
198 Patricia Odoro Housegoods
The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.
1/25, 2/1/2022 7121749

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Michael J. Mogielnicki (22-00034)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated January 26, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Mark Mogielnicki
c/o CLAUDIA RUTH BARBIERI, BARBIERI LAW, LLC, 18 CEDAR STREET, PO BOX 1445, NEW BRITAIN, CT 06050
2/1/22 7137930

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Isaac Ortiz Espada (22-00030)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated January 20, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Alexa Romer
c/o SARAH NILANI MATHER, DRESSLER STRICKLAND, 84 CEDAR STREET, HARTFORD, CT 06106
2/1/2022 7139189

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I asked what kind of family Amina wanted. She said, ‘A family like yours.’ That’s when I knew I had to adopt her.

Denise, adopted 17-year-old Amina



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Boyega steps into shoes of struggling veteran

Filmmakers hope ‘892’ shines a light on broken system

By Sonaiya Kelley
Los Angeles Times

In July 2017, a desperate man held up a bank. Brian Brown-Easley, 33, entered a branch of Wells Fargo in the Atlanta suburbs and slid the teller a note saying he had a bomb. A Marine veteran, Easley had been struggling to survive solely on a measly disability check from the Department of Veterans Affairs. When the monthly payment dried up, he faced certain homelessness but was repeatedly turned away by the Veterans Crisis Line and a regional VA benefits office.

At the bank, he allowed everyone but two employees to leave before alerting 911 and a local news station of what was happening. He said he had no intention of robbing the bank and would let the employees go if he ultimately decided to detonate the bomb. He just wanted the \$892 owed to him by the VA.

In “892,” which recently premiered in the U.S. dramatic competition at the Sundance Film Festival, John Boyega stars as Easley on the final day of his life. Directed by Abi Damaris Corbin from a screenplay she co-wrote with playwright Kwame Kwei-Armah, the ensemble includes Nicole Beharie, Selenis Leyva, Connie Britton and the late Michael K. Williams in one of his last roles.

Corbin first heard about Easley after reading Aaron Gell’s article “‘They didn’t have to kill him’: The death of Lance Corporal Brian Easley,” which was published in 2018. “It broke my heart,” said the



A scene from “892,” a film directed by Abi Damaris Corbin from a screenplay she co-wrote with Kwame Kwei-Armah. **SUNDANCE INSTITUTE**

director, whose father is also a veteran. “I saw in it a reflection of my dad’s story. He’s gone through a lot of the struggles with the VA that are threaded through Brian’s story, and I knew that story had to be told.”

Boyega was considered for the role of Easley early on. “I gave John, I think, his very first job as an actor on-stage when he was like 16 years old at the then-Tri-cycle Theatre in London,” said Kwei-Armah. “And as soon as we got to the end of the first draft, I went, ‘Look, I think this is John.’”

They sent an early draft of the script, but the actor couldn’t commit due to scheduling conflicts. “I loved it, but I just kind of let that go, and they moved on,” said Boyega. “And it all came full circle (years later) when they needed someone to get the movie greenlit again. (The role

was a great opportunity to show versatility. ... I was shocked that I hadn’t heard of what happened to Brian, and I was moved by his story and the drama of the circumstance.”

“John and I had a conversation, and it was very clear that he understood the heart of the story,” said Corbin. “The nuance that he showed as Brian was just inspiring every day on set. John’s first day on camera (fell on) the anniversary of Brian’s death. And when John stepped on camera for the first time as Brian, we had a moment of silence and the world faded away. We saw Brian on camera. It was the spirit of Brian that touched us, and we’re so grateful that John is able to bring the truth of Brian’s story to life.”

To ensure Easley’s story would be portrayed accurately, the cast and crew

reached out to Easley’s ex-wife and daughter. “We wanted to make sure that we respected and honored Brian’s story in every step, so we would never tell the story without connecting to them,” said Corbin. “(His ex-wife, Jessica, has) watched the film and is very grateful that the story has been told and it’s not just known to them.”

“There’s definitely an emotional weight playing somebody that has existed who has had to live a tragedy in order for you to play him,” said Boyega. “(Jessica) told me it felt like I captured Brian. She was real descriptive of the experience of taking it in. She said that this movie is a direct lineage to Brian’s legacy: Brian wanted the world to know what was going on, how much frustration this was for people who’ve sacrificed so much

for their country. The story is really (about) the isolation and betrayal that comes with serving your country and then coming back home to no opportunity or true help.”

While the filmmakers surrounded Boyega with a top-notch cast — including a standout Beharie — the chance to see Williams on-screen one more time proves the most bittersweet. Working with the Emmy-nominated star of “The Wire” and “Lovecraft Country,” who plays a hostage negotiator in the film, was “epic,” said Boyega. “I’m really glad I got the chance to work with him, especially in his last days, and see his artistry. (He was) very positive on set. A good, bubbly guy. And at the same time just effortless with his humility.”

The filmmakers hope

to shine a light on corners of the system that remain broken. “The article was called ‘They didn’t have to kill him,’ and ultimately I think that’s the gig,” said Kwei-Armah. “This film is born of a time when it’s really important that we address the violence that is happening across our nation. And I think this sits within that wave of art that wishes to say, ‘This is the time that we’re living in and we quickly need to move past it.’ We’ve got to treat people right or this happens.”

“We’ve seen so many broken systems around us,” said Corbin. “And as creators, we want to say, ‘Hey, compassionate engagement can help repair those.’ We want people to look at their neighbor and not turn a blind eye. As Brian says, do right by people.”

CELEBRITIES

Rihanna debuts baby bump on stroll

From news services

Rihanna and A\$AP Rocky took an epic stroll over the weekend in snowy New York to reveal she’s pregnant with her first child. Despite the frigid temperatures, the singer and fashion mogul showed off her bump in a long open pink coat (vintage Chanel) and ripped jeans as her boyfriend beamed by her side in Harlem, which is A\$AP’s home neighborhood.

In one photo, the two hold hands with smiles on their faces. In another, he kisses her forehead. Her bump was well adorned with a long jeweled necklace. No further details about the pregnancy were disclosed.

The performers, both 33, have been friends and collaborators for years but started dating in 2020, according to People magazine.

H.E.R., J.Lo, Curry join voter campaign: NBA player Steph Curry and musical artists H.E.R. and Jennifer Lopez are among celebrities who have joined a national nonpartisan voting initiative launched by former first lady Michelle Obama.

H.E.R., Curry, Lopez, Becky G and Bretman Rock are the newest co-chairs of Obama’s When We All Vote initiative. They join Selena Gomez, Tom Hanks, Liza Koshy, Janelle Monae, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Chris Paul, Megan Rapino, Shonda Rhimes, Kerry Washington and Rita Wilson.

The volunteer co-chairs use their platforms to help boost voter registration and education with the goal of helping increase turnout for congressional and state elections in November.

Sundance winners named: A drama about an undocumented nanny in New



Singer Rihanna, seen Sept. 13 with rapper A\$AP Rocky, is pregnant with her first child. **ANGELA WEISS/GETTY-AFP**

York City, a documentary about three exiled dissidents from Tiananmen Square and another doc about Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny won top prizes at the Sundance Film Festival. Winners were announced Friday.

“Nanny,” from writer-director Nikyatu Jusu and starring Anna Diop and Michelle Monaghan, won the Grand Jury Prize in the drama category for its depiction of a Senegalese immigrant working for a wealthy family in New York City. The top jury prize for documentary went to Ben Klein and Violet Columbus for “The Exiles,” in which a documentary filmmaker attempts to finish a film she started in 1989 after the Tiananmen Square massacre. “Navalny” won the documentary audience award and the festival favorite award. Daniel Roher’s film tracks the Russian opposition leader as he recovers in Berlin after being poisoned.

The audience award for U.S. dramatic film went to Cooper Raiff’s “Cha Cha Real Smooth,” starring

Dakota Johnson as the young mother of a teenage daughter who, on the bar mitzvah circuit, forms a unique relationship with a recent college graduate.

Grand jury prize winners in the world cinema category include “Utama,” about an elderly couple in Bolivia, and “All That Breathes,” a documentary about brothers in Delhi fighting to protect the bird known as the Black Kite.

World cinema audience awards went to “Girl Picture,” a Finnish coming-of-age movie about three girls and “The Territory,” a documentary about the seizure of an area of the Amazon rainforest and those fighting for the land.

Feb. 1 birthdays: Comedian Garrett Morris is 85. Singer Exene Cervenka is 66. Actor Linus Roache is 58. Actor Sherilyn Fenn is 57. Singer Lisa Marie Presley is 54. Comedian Pauly Shore is 54. Actor Michael C. Hall is 51. Rapper Big Boi is 47. TV personality Lauren Conrad is 36. Actor Heather Morris is 35. Singer Harry Styles is 28.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Secrets could divide sisters in stressful time

Dear Amy: I am very close to my sister, “Cari,” who lives nearby.

I’m not married, I do not have children, and our parents are both deceased.

Cari’s daughter — my niece “Wendy” — is dating “Steve.” Steve and Wendy have a 6-month-old baby. Cari doesn’t care for Steve at all. Steve lives 90 minutes away.

Wendy asked me if Steve could stay with me and rent out my second bedroom, and I said yes.

Well, Wendy told her dad, who then told Cari, and Cari flipped out. She doesn’t want Steve moving nearby.

I’ve only met Steve three times, so I don’t know him very well, but they are obviously crazy about each other.

Wendy also told me that Steve bought her an engagement ring.

I’m afraid that if I don’t tell my sister ... when she eventually finds out, it will drive a wedge between us.

My sister Cari has always been my rock through some really tough times. She is all I have left.

Should I tell her about this engagement?

She is my only immediate family. I don’t keep secrets from her.

— Concerned Sister

Dear Sister: The kind of support you are offering can be extremely positive for a young family in need, unless it enmeshes all of you in a complex family situation that none of you are prepared to handle.

You can be a hero to this young family, but not if you keep their secrets or shield them from navigating the relational consequences of their choices.

Your niece “Wendy” has firmly inserted you into her domestic drama. I infer that she is living with her parents, and until she lives independently, her folks should be included in her bigger life choices.

As it is, you have a near-stranger moving into your home. No doubt, Wendy and their baby will also be spending a lot of time there. This will involve you intimately.

You should let them know that if this housing arrangement moves forward, you will not keep any life-altering secrets from her parents. If she is more comfortable sharing her news with her father than her mother, then she should speak with him.

Your assistance could prove to be a positive influence on all parties, but I think it’s likely that this refusal to keep secrets might prompt the couple to carefully consider how they’re handling this housing arrangement, which would be a mark of their burgeoning maturity.

Dear Amy: After confronting my husband about his yearlong emotional affair, he agreed to stop it, although he doesn’t feel that he was cheating.

I believe he did stop, although he never showed me any evidence.

It’s been very hard for me to move on.

What bothers me is that he kept all of their correspondence in a secret file, which I assume he still looks at.

He treats me really well. He is very attentive and loving toward me.

Am I overthinking and overreacting?

— Still Crying!

Dear Crying: Please, make an appointment with a counselor. Your loving husband seems to be patiently attending to your sadness, while not actually admitting his own role in it.

You will continue to spiral until he demonstrates that he understands the dynamic and works with you to heal.

He should be completely transparent about this relationship, including showing you his phone and agreeing to delete this trophy-file, even though — as you must realize — it is possible to keep, and hide, documents. Rebuilding trust will help you to cope with that reality.

Dear Amy: As a pet groomer, kennel owner, breeder, competition dog sports participant, etc., I read with interest your response to “Sad Pet Mom,” who had recently lost her first dog.

Something I share with clients in this situation: The death, and then the grieving and recovery, is one of the biggest gifts we get from our pets. Because they don’t live as long as we do, we have an opportunity to rehearse processing such a huge and personal loss. It gives us the experience to process the inevitable loss of family and friends. This is their final gift.

— Bonnie

Dear Bonnie: Thank you for offering this perspective.

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Sanchez still happily lost in creepy woods

‘Blair Witch Project’ director bringing horror talents to TV more and more

By **Mary McNamara**
Los Angeles Times

Any “Blair Witch Project” obsessives who started combing the “Yellowjackets” finale frame by frame the moment they heard it was directed by Eduardo Sanchez can stop now. The Showtime series may tick many of the boxes that made Sanchez and Daniel Myrick’s first film a cultural icon — one half of the series deals with freaked-out young people lost in very creepy woods dotted with disturbing iconography — but Sanchez did not slide a random stick man into any “Yellowjackets” scenes.

He was tempted, he says. He managed to slide a “Blair Witch” symbol into the last episode of “Supernatural” he directed. Which, as the forest gods would have it, was filmed in the same Vancouver, Canada, location where much of the wilderness portion of “Yellowjackets” was filmed. Until recently, the paintball park that stands in for the forest home of the stranded girls’ soccer team was the woodland home of “Supernatural,” for which Sanchez directed five episodes, including one in the 15th and final season.

No cinematic storyteller should turn down the combined juju of “Blair Witch” and “Supernatural,” but “Yellowjackets” is doing just fine with its own eerie and triggering symbol. Nor does Sanchez need to remind anyone of the enduring power of the Witch; she continues to manifest in everything from the little wooden figures in the first season of “True Detective” to the recently released Netflix series “Archive 81,” which opens with a young woman in obvious distress talking

into a video camera and begging for help. “Archive 81” is not entirely found-footage horror, the narrative form “The Blair Witch Project” turned into a subgenre. It chronicles the efforts of film archivist Dan Turner (Mamoudou Athie) to restore cassettes made by a doctoral student, presumed dead in the fire from which the cassettes were rescued. Like “Yellowjackets,” the new series toggles between two time frames, but the influence of “The Blair Witch Project” is strong enough that the film is name-checked at least once. And when Dan finds himself wandering through an empty wood, it’s hard not to scan the branches for hanging stick figures or the ground for eerie stone piles.

“I haven’t seen it yet,” Sanchez says in a recent conversation from his home in Frederick, Maryland. “I’ve heard it’s good and it’s definitely on my list. I still consider myself a horror filmmaker; I try to keep up with all the new work.”

When told the “Blair Witch” name check comes in the form of a woman saying the tapes are fakes and “those ‘Blair Witch’ guys didn’t invent that,” he laughs.

“I was surprised that people are still doing found-footage,” Sanchez says. “And we didn’t invent it, but it became a fad after our film. I’m a fan of a lot of these filmmakers, and I love to see how found-footage has evolved. At first people dismissed it as amateurish filmmaking — you know, the shaky hand-held camera, the improvisation — but now they realize it’s not easy to do.”

In today’s world of the Marvel cinematic multi-



Heather Donahue turns the camera on herself during her confession scene in “The Blair Witch Project,” from filmmakers Eduardo Sanchez and Daniel Myrick. **ARTISAN ENTERTAINMENT**

verse and of instant-peak TV, when shows flare up only to fade immediately under the next explosion, it’s hard to remember the seismic impact that the small but mighty “Blair Witch” had on horror, indie film and digital marketing. Many of those lucky enough to see it in theaters often recount the experience in great emotional detail, as if they had survived the Titanic (the sinking ship, not the movie).

Not everyone loved the film or the out-there marketing meant to trick you into almost believing it was a documentary. But it was a nine days’ cover-of-Time wonder in a way few things are any more, and more than 20 years later, it still follows Sanchez where ever he goes.

“A lot of people still want to talk about it,” he says, “and they wonder, ‘Does he want to talk about it?’ I’m happy to talk about it; it got me my career, it got me to ‘Yellowjackets,’ it got me to this interview. I love being

one of the ‘Blair Witch’ guys.”

Sanchez has directed several horror films, including “Curse of the Blair Witch” and “Lovely Molly,” but like many filmmakers he has increasingly worked in television. In 2014, after Sanchez helmed episodes of the short-lived series “Intruders,” Robert Rodriguez drafted him to direct on “From Dusk Till Dawn: The Series” for the then-new El Rey network.

“He’s a legend, so how could I say no?” says Sanchez, who was born in Cuba. “He said we’re going to do a bunch of shows with Hispanic directors, which was such a great idea. And I learned so much every day on the set, how to be a boss, how to make TV.”

He had a couple of other series set up for El Rey that never made it out of development, and the network went dark in 2020 before announcing a new streaming deal with Cinedigm last year.

Since then, he has directed for a variety of

series, including “Lucifer,” “Queen of the South” and “American Horror Stories,” and although he has a feature film in development, Sanchez is, like many, happy to be working in television. But his first love is horror, and even with all the new special effects and streaming’s binge model, serialized horror is hard to do.

“You have to create a situation in which the main characters don’t or can’t run away,” he says. “I mean at a certain point, the audience will wonder, ‘Why don’t they just leave the house or kill that guy?’ So you have to figure out how to keep them in whatever horror bubble you’ve created. That’s why ‘American Horror Story’ works so well as an anthology. The art of horror is keeping stuff from the audience; once you reveal something, you have to write for it, and then it’s less scary.”

If nothing else, “Blair Witch” taught Sanchez how to be logistically creative. Much of the film



Sanchez directed the season finale of the Showtime series “Yellowjackets.” **MICHAEL LOCCISANO/GETTY 2019**

was shot at Seneca Creek State Park near Gaithersburg, Maryland, and spinning a tale of three people lost in what was actually a two-square-mile state park requires some serious fake-outs. “There were times when if you moved the camera a bit, you’d see the road, or a parking lot. We had to zigzag the cast a lot.”

Along with revitalizing found-footage, “Blair Witch” is often credited with revolutionizing the digital ad campaign, of not just building a fan base but activating the kind of passionate online engagement every film and series now courts.

More than 20 years later, that fan base is still endlessly searching for signs of life in the “Blair Witch” universe, which now includes “Yellowjackets.”

“There are a couple of ‘Blair Witch’ sites I look at, and after the ‘Yellowjackets’ finale ran, they were all looking for stick men,” Sanchez says.

“Sometimes,” he adds, “I think I need to move away from people being stuck in the woods. But I’m really hoping they ask me back to ‘Yellowjackets.’ I’ll definitely try to get a stick man in if they do.”

TV Q&A

Is ‘Devil in the White City’ adaptation still happening?

By **Rich Heldenfels**
Tribune News Service

Q: We’ve been hearing for 10 years that Leonardo DiCaprio will star in the film version of “The Devil in the White City.” Is this movie going to be made?

A: Still in the works is a screen adaptation of Erik Larson’s nonfiction account of murder and the 1893 World’s Fair, though not quite as originally imagined. As Deadline has reported, DiCaprio acquired the rights to the book in 2010, with an eye toward a feature film directed by Martin Scorsese, a frequent DiCaprio collaborator. But in 2019, the project shifted into a planned miniseries for Hulu, with DiCaprio as an executive producer along with Scorsese. There have been reports about possible casting from time to time since then. Most recently, in January, Keanu Reeves was said to be in negotiations for the series; it hasn’t been said whom he would play.

Q: We always watched “The Big Bang Theory” and now enjoy watching “Young Sheldon.” We recall an episode of “Big Bang” featuring Sheldon’s twin sister but can’t recall any episode about a brother. Did we miss something?

A: Yes. Jerry O’Connell played Georgie Cooper in several episodes of “The Big Bang Theory” starting in the 11th season in 2018. He was the successful owner of a chain of tire stores; “Young Sheldon,” where Montana Jordan plays young Georgie, has shown the character’s business savvy.

Q: Sometime between 1948 and 1950, I saw a film called “Mickey.” I have



Leonardo DiCaprio, seen Dec. 5, acquired the rights to “The Devil in the White City” in 2010. **EVAN AGOSTINI/INVISION**

questioned people about seeing this film, but no one ever heard of it. It starred Lois Butler and, I think, Skippy Homeier and Anne Revere. I hardly remember the plot or script, but somehow it remains a most positive memory. Is it possible to find a venue to see this film?

A: “Mickey,” from 1948, starred Lois Butler as young Mickey Kelly. Top-billed cast includes Bill Goodwin, Irene Hervey and John Sutton; Skippy Homeier is also in it, but not Anne Revere. You can find it on Amazon Prime Video; there are also recordings on YouTube; the picture quality is not great on any of them.

Q: Sometime in January, at the end of “Days of Our Lives,” there was a note that it was in memory of someone. It went by so fast that I didn’t catch the name. I was wondering if someone on the cast had passed away.

A: I believe you saw a dedication to Elizabeth “Betsy” Snyder, who had

been a writer on “Days” for a decade. The Emmy winner passed away following a brief illness last November. She had also written for other daytime dramas including “Another World,” “General Hospital” and “The Bold and the Beautiful.”

Q: I was a big fan of the show “Fringe” and wonder if there was ever any talk about the possibility of a movie version? How come it doesn’t appear on any streaming services like Amazon or Netflix?

A: To answer your last question first, you can find “Fringe” on IMDb TV and on HBO Max. While fans often long for a return of a favorite show as a movie or another series, I have not found any discussion of “Fringe” that makes that seem likely.

Do you have a question or comment about entertainment past, present and future? Write to Rich Heldenfels, P.O. Box 417, Mogadore, OH 44260, or brenfels@gmail.com. Letters may be edited.

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): You might feel ready to change the world all on your own — but you might want to remember that you can achieve far more in a group than you could alone. Even the smallest activities will be easier with some helping hands.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Breaking free from whatever may be holding you back might feel easier than ever today! You’ll likely need to speak up and be clear about what you want — happily, there’s no need to follow this path alone. Don’t hesitate to make connections that will help you build the future you really want.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): The last thing you probably want today is to feel bored. Pull some ideas from the back of your mind and follow up on them. They may not be something you would normally do, but they are worth trying. Whether or not the end result is what you planned on, you could make some wonderful memories.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Your relationship with the resources of others may feel out of balance right now. If someone is taking advantage of you, it’s time to do something about it. You’ll eventually run out of things to give — metaphorically or literally. Start a conversation about this.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): You may be able to find fresh clarity with others today. While it’s normal to need someone to rely on, you can’t expect people to guess how you feel. If you need more support in general or someone specific to be more available, that’s more likely to happen if you tell them.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Being a little too hard on yourself will be all too easy today. You may get stuck in a spiral of worrying that you could do better. You can banish these concerns by taking a close look at what you’ve actually been doing lately. Now is a good time to make a change. If you’re doing well, give yourself a pat on the back!

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Life is more enjoyable when you know your efforts have been appreciated! You might be in charge of doing whatever’s necessary for you and your friends to have a good time. That might sound boring, but it doesn’t have to be. Take into account everyone’s feedback and don’t just go your own way.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Insecurity can creep in all too easily. No matter how capable you are at this time, it’s OK to reach out and ask for help! Speaking up about it shouldn’t cause drama as long as you respect the needs of others as well. It isn’t personal if the answer is no.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A genius idea may burst into your mind at any moment — but it’ll stay just an idea unless you work at it. Let today’s busy energy inspire you to come up with some realistic ways of getting things done. Take a moment to tick things off your list once they’ve been completed.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Some details in your financial goals could catch your gaze at this time. You might even want to rework your budget to achieve them more efficiently! As long as you make sure that you’re clear about the nitty-gritty pieces of your plans, you should be able to make — and keep — some sensible plans.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): There’s nothing wrong with letting people know when you feel let down. Fortunately, it shouldn’t take that much effort to turn things around — just stay focused on putting your best foot forward. Those around you should notice your effort and appreciate that you tried! You’ve got this!

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): When there’s a lot going on, it can be hard to stick to your plans! Some time out to recharge your batteries might be necessary. Spend a few hours of the day enjoying your own company. Allow any confusing thoughts to start making sense.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On Feb. 1, 1790, the U.S. Supreme Court convened for the first time in New York.

In 1862, “The Battle Hymn of the Republic,” a poem by Julia Ward Howe, was

published in the Atlantic Monthly.

In 1865, abolitionist John S. Rock became the first Black lawyer admitted to the bar of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1979, Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini received a tumultuous welcome in Tehran as he ended nearly 15 years of exile.

In 2003, the space shuttle Columbia broke up during reentry, killing all seven of its crew members.

In 2012, Facebook, the Internet social network, announced plans to go public with a stock offering.

In 2020, a World Health Organization official said governments needed to prepare for “domestic outbreak control.”

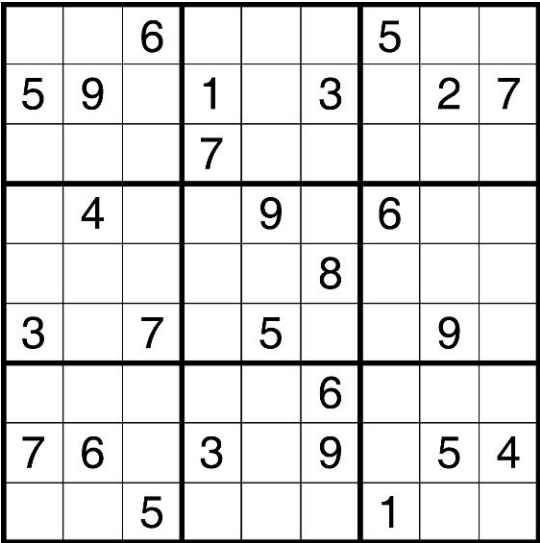
BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at [PlayJumble.com](https://www.playjumble.com)



Scan QR code to play online.

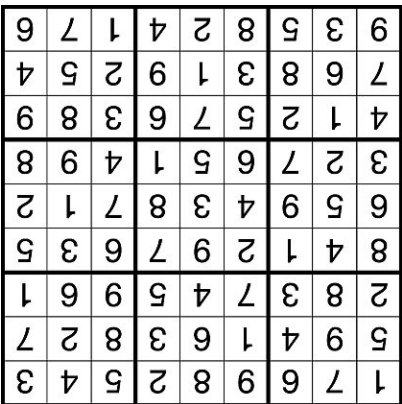
SUDOKU



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Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.



WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: twists and turns

280

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.



- AKIMBO
ANGULAR
ASKEW
AWRY
BENT
BOWED
BUCKLED
COIL
CONTORT
CRESCENT
CROOKED
- CURL
CURVE
DEFORM
DETOUR
DEVIATE
DISTORT
FLEX
FORKED
GARBLE
GNARLED
HELIX
- HOOK
JAGGED
KNOT
LOOP
MAZE
MEANDER
OBLIQUE
OVAL
PLAIT
ROTATE
SCREW
- SNAKE
SPIRAL
SQUIRM
SWIVEL
TURN
WARP
WEAVE
WIND
WREST
ZIGZAG

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BOGGLE



By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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www.bogglebrainbusters.com

INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

- BOGGLE POINT SCALE
- 3 letters = 1 point
 - 4 letters = 2 points
 - 5 letters = 3 points
 - 6 letters = 4 points
 - 7 letters = 6 points
 - 8 letters = 10 points
 - 9+ letters = 15 points

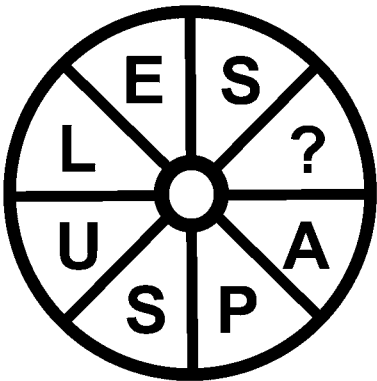
- YOUR BOGGLE RATING
- 151+ = Champ
 - 101-150 = Expert
 - 61-100 = Pro
 - 31-60 = Gamer
 - 21-30 = Rookie
 - 11-20 = Amateur
 - 0-10 = Try again

Boggle BrainBusters Bonus
We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST FOUR STRINGED MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS in the grid of letters.

LUKE HARP BAND GUITAR

WordWheel

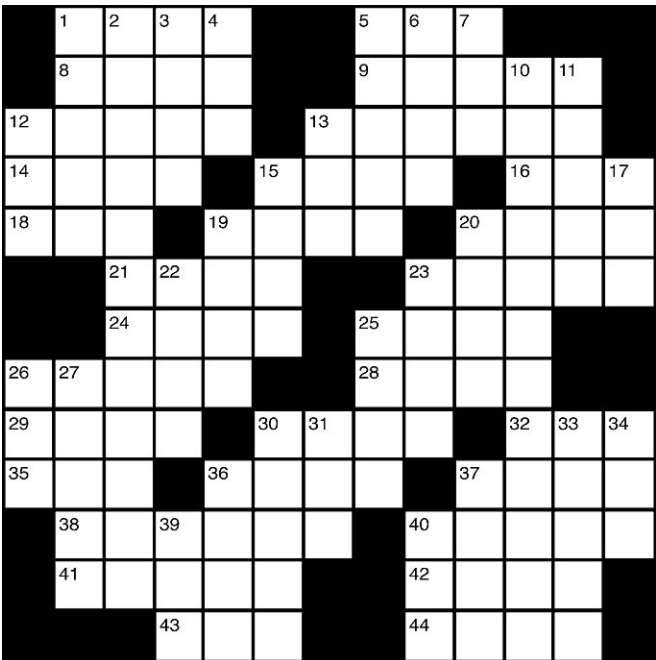


Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

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TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

6/5/16

ACROSS

- "Trek: Voyager"
- "World News Tonight with David Muir" network
- Dog in "Peter Pan"
- "Beauty and the ___"
- Mansfield or Meadows
- "No Deal"
- Infuriate
- Die like the Wicked Witch of the West
- Actress Wray
- ___-pitch softball
- Wolf's cry
- "Once Upon a ___"
- "Man"; movie for Dustin Hoffman and Tom Cruise
- Gathers crops
- Actor ___ Cameron
- "Jeopardy!" creator ___ Griffin
- "Hearts ___"; John Ritter sitcom
- Cartoon dog
- Crematory shelf supplies
- Catches forty winks
- "Race"; movie for Whoopi
- Actor Berry



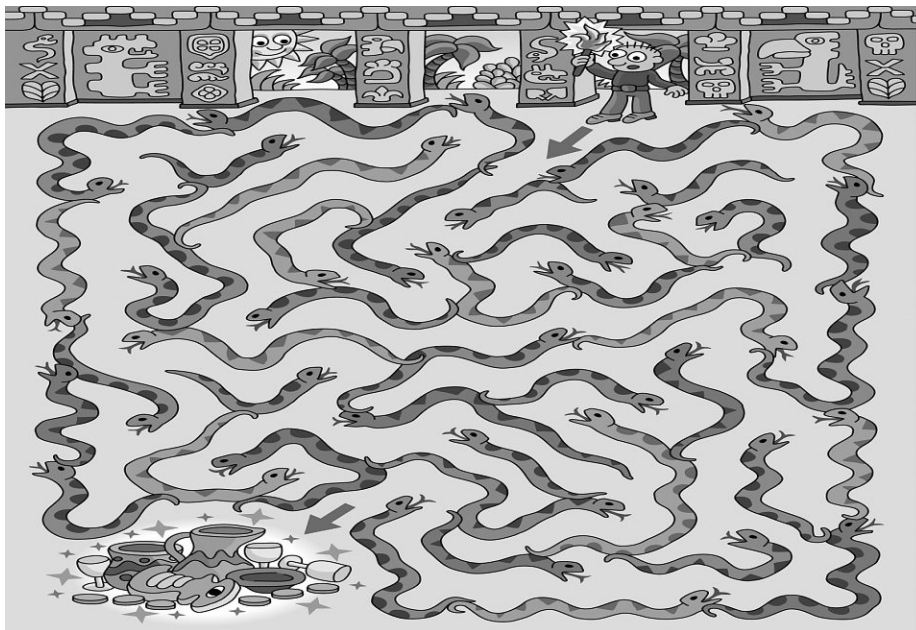
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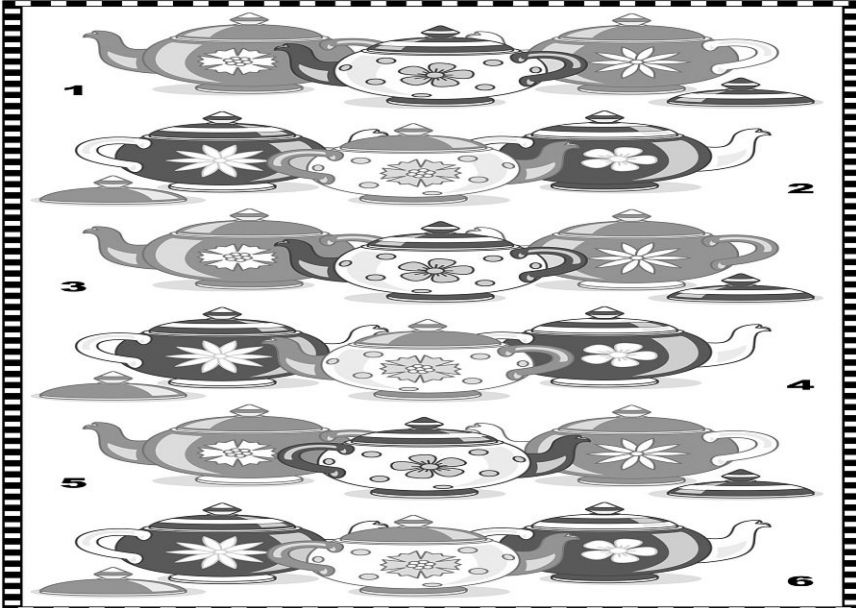
DOWN

- Slow crawler
- Actor on "Chicago Fire"
- Meara or Murray
- "Norma ___"; Sally Field movie
- "___ for Adano"; film for Gene Tierney
- "___ the Clock"; game show of the past
- Baseball's ___ Ripken Jr.
- Actress on "Modern Family"
- Disney's "Lady and the ___"
- Yrbk. section
- Morning grass blade moisture
- Detective series for Tony Shalhoub
- "Say ___ to the Dress"
- "Spenser: For ___"; Robert Ulrich series
- Actress Hatcher
- Broadcasts
- Movie for Warren Beatty and Diane Keaton
- Cleans the floor
- Black-and-white diving bird
- Worries
- Actor Lloyd ___
- King Kong, for one
- Gracie or Woody
- Cobb and Burrell
- Mayberry resident
- "Once ___ a Time"
- "Scarecrow and ___ King"
- ___-Wan Kenobi

KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES



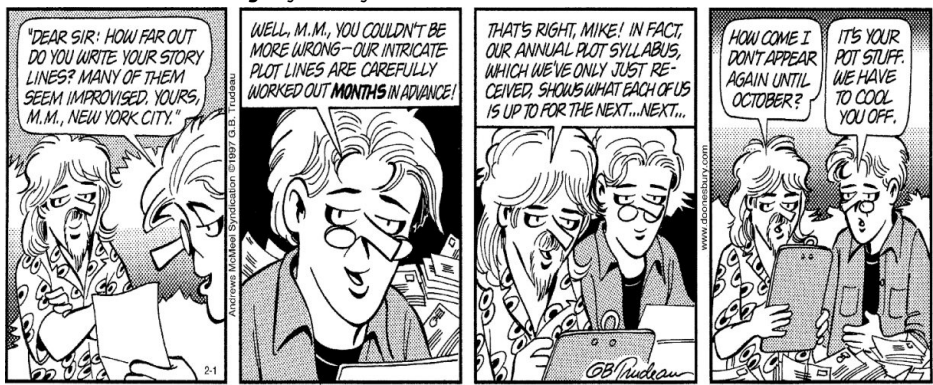
WHICH 2 ARE THE SAME?



Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz



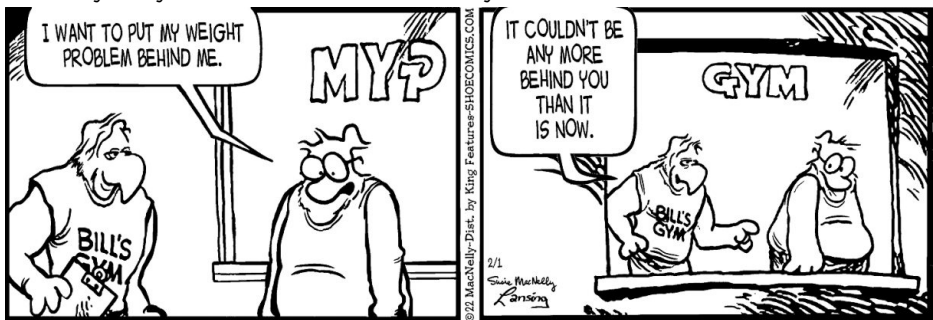
Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



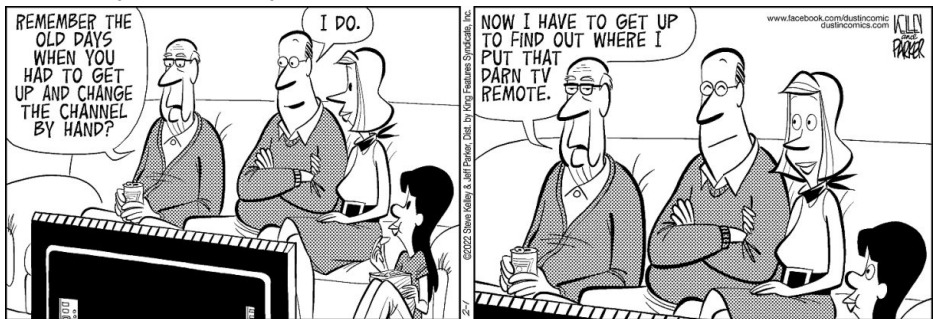
Garfield By Jim Davis



Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



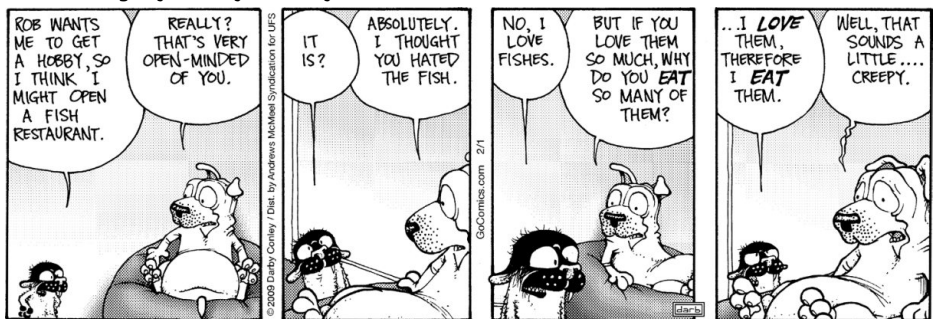
Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt



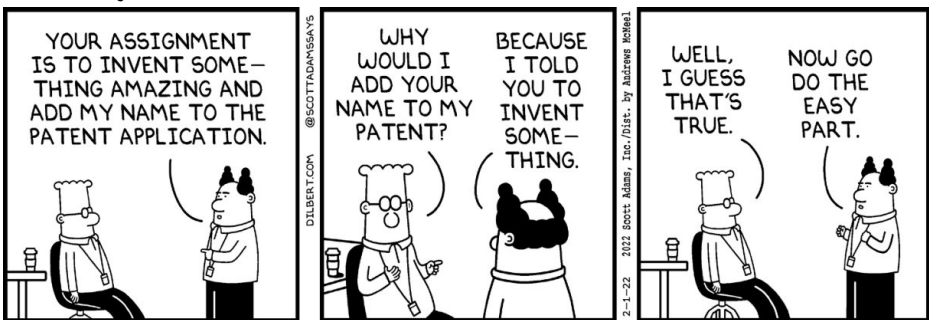
Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley



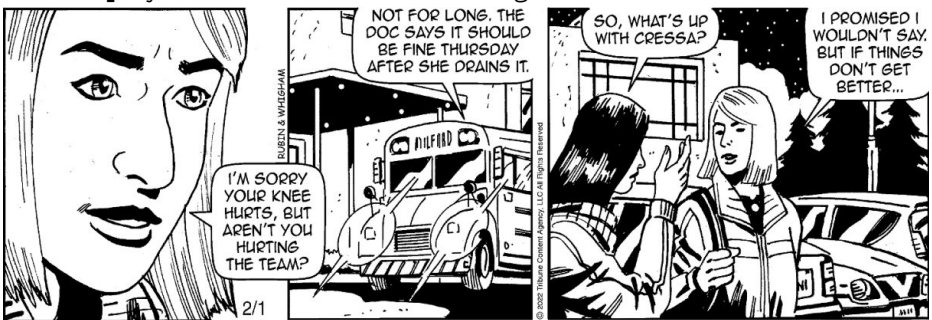
Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



Dilbert By Scott Adams



Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin



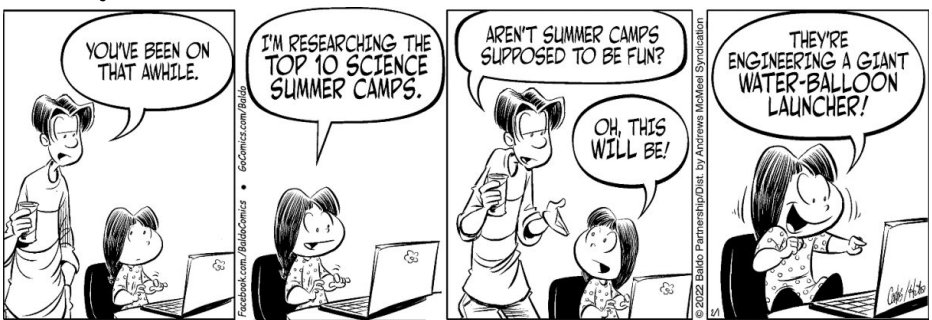
Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty



Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley



Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos



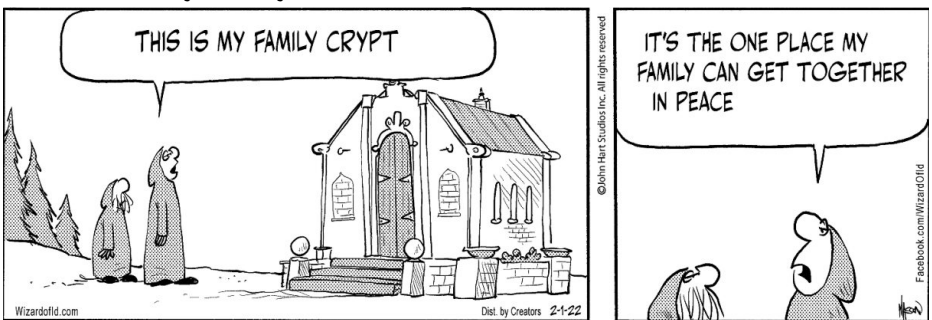
Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk



Lio By Mark Tatulli



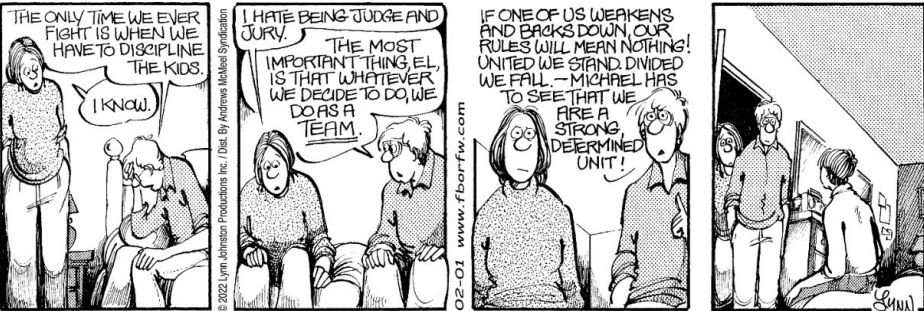
Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker



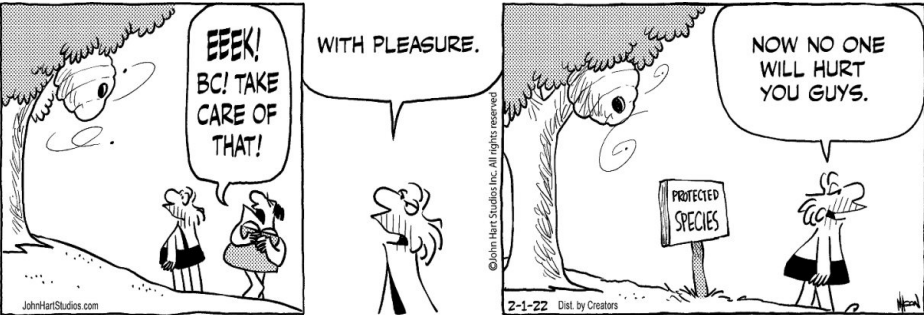
Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price



For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston



B.C. By Hart



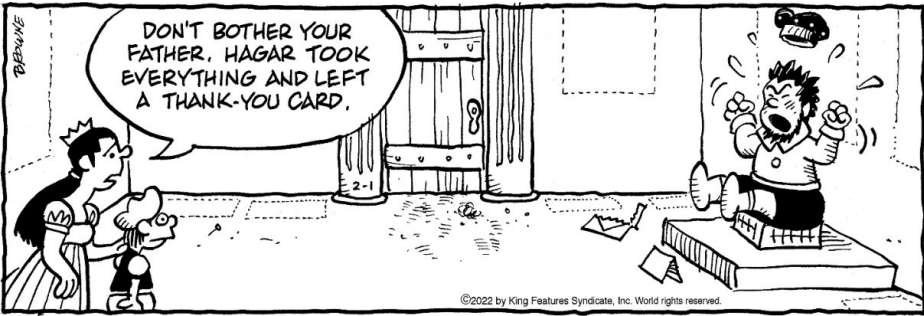
Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker



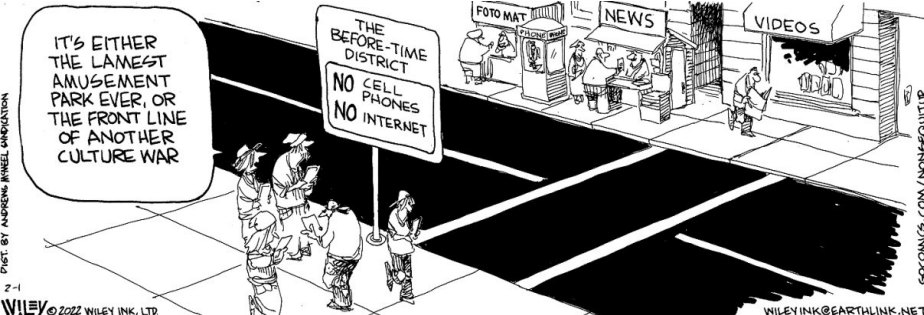
Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne



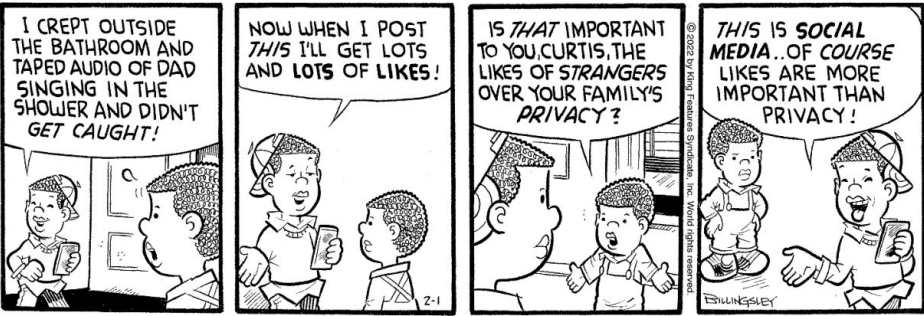
Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne



Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller



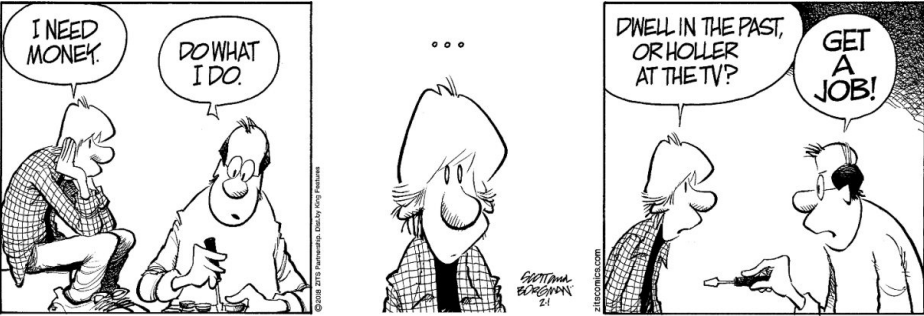
Curtis By Ray Billingsley



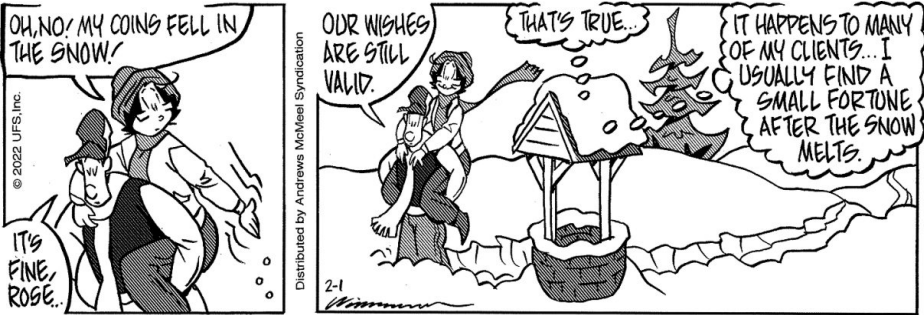
Pickles By Brian Crane



Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer



Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters



CROSSWORD

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

1 iOS computers

5 Inbox annoyance

9 Increase

14 Texter's modest "I think ..."

15 Trendy berry

16 Stadium levels

17 Poseidon's companions

19 Rushed

20 How ballerinas dance

21 Surprise from hiding

23 When a major might be chosen

27 Watson's creator

30 Closing words

31 About to arrive

33 Road crew supply

34 Netflix series set in central Missouri

39 Query from "Test Man" in old Verizon ads

43 Disney mermaid

44 Purchase

45 Californian wine valley

46 Territory that became two states

49 Floral greeting

50 Oscar-winning actress for "12 Years a Slave"

56 Turn to mist, in Manchester

57 Cocktail cubes

61 Brunch hr.

62 "It's about to happen" ... or what each of the four other longest answers in this puzzle has?

66 __ de cacao

67 Insightful

68 Ballet class bend

69 __ fit: tantrum

70 Work with notes

71 URL opening

Down

1 Japanese soup

2 Sermon-ending word

3 Brit : chin-wag :: Yank : __

4 " __ a gun!"

5 "Stay With Me" singer Smith

6 Angel dust letters

7 "Feels amazing!"

8 Returning lover's question

9 Unsyste-matically

10 Anne Frank journal

11 Al __: pasta order

12 Cheerful refrain

13 Long-time kitchen products brand

18 " __ out!": ump's call

22 Sunbather's goal

24 Caesar's rebuke

25 Ousted Iranian ruler

26 Call to a pooch

27 Ancient Cuzco resident

28 Boo Boo or Yogi

29 Salon service, briefly

32 Bread for corned beef

35 Extremely chill

36 Like neat freaks

37 Lasso

38 River in a 1957 movie title

40 Quaint

41 One on the road

42 Meg of "The Women"

47 Remote batteries

48 Works with dough

50 Fastening feature

51 Gestation sites

52 Corn breads

53 Muslim officials

54 Miracle-__: garden product

55 Zing

58 Boston NBAer

59 Work with needles

60 Dance class move

63 Three-time role for Keanu Reeves

64 Japanese coins

65 41-Down efficiency stat

By Julian Lim

Tribune Content Agency 2/1/22

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

West dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A 8 4 2
♥ 9 8 6 5 3
♦ Q 5
♣ A K

WEST
♠ Q 10 9
♥ 4
♦ A K J 10 9 3
♣ J 10 7

EAST
♠ 7 5 3
♥ J 7 2
♦ 8 2
♣ 9 8 6 4 2

SOUTH
♠ K J 6
♥ A K Q 10
♦ 7 6 4
♣ Q 5 3

The bidding:
West North East South
1♦ Dble Pass 4♥
Opening lead — king of diamonds.
First things first

Assume you're declarer in four hearts and West leads the K-A of diamonds, East playing the eight and then the deuce to show a doubleton. When West continues with the jack, you ruff with dummy's nine, which East overruffs with the jack. Later you try a spade finesse that fails, and you finish down one.

When you begin to think about whether you could have made the contract, it suddenly dawns on you that you could have — and should have — made four hearts. It all goes back to your play at trick three when you ruffed the third round of diamonds in dummy and East overruffed. It would have been far wiser to discard a spade from dummy instead. For practical purposes, this play would have assured the contract. Whatever West did next, you would win, draw trump, cash the A-K

of clubs and A-K of spades, then discard dummy's last spade on the queen of clubs, eliminating your spade loser.

It might seem odd that the best method of play is to make no effort whatever to win the third round of diamonds when there is a reasonable chance of taking the trick by ruffing high in dummy. After all, East might not be able to overruff the nine.

But the fact remains that it is far better to allow West's jack of diamonds to win at trick three. By doing so, you virtually eliminate any chance of losing a spade trick later on.

The long-term view of protecting the contract takes precedence over the short-term view of winning the trick.

Tomorrow: The devil and the deep blue sea.

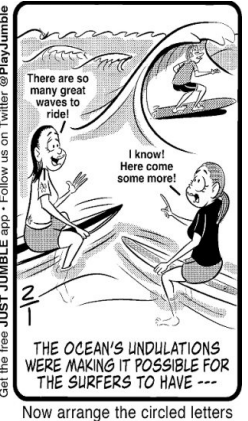
JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NLNIE
ASYHT
WREVES
FMLUEF

Ans. here: (Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumbles: GRANT OFFER HIDDEN ABSURD
Answer: The invention of rotary ceiling fans in the mid-1860s began with a — ROUGH DRAFT



TODAY'S SUDOKU

8				1	9			
6			4	9				
		1		5	7			
	4		2			5		
			9	5	3			
	9			6		3		
		9	6		7			
			3	1			5	
	1	3						8

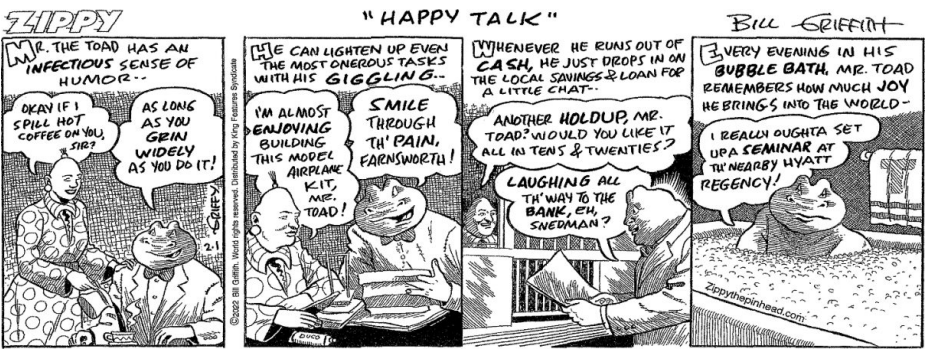
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

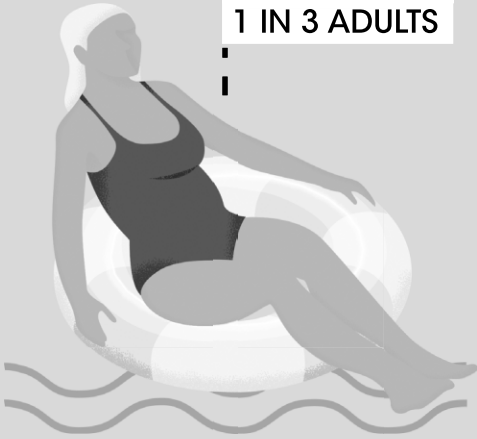
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

4	9	2	3	7	8	5	1	6
8	1	6	4	9	5	7	2	3
3	5	7	6	1	2	9	4	8
1	3	4	9	8	6	2	5	7
5	6	9	2	3	7	1	8	4
7	2	8	5	4	1	3	6	9
9	8	3	1	5	4	6	7	2
2	4	1	7	6	9	8	3	5
6	7	5	8	2	3	4	9	1

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

S	P	A			S	C	A	B		L	A	C	E	D						
T	O	I	L			C	A	M	E		I	V	O	R	Y					
A	U	D	I			A	L	P	H	A	B	E	T	I	C					
G	R	A	V	E	N	I	M	A	G	E		E	E	K						
				I	N	N				L	I	R	A							
				G	R	A	D	E	I	N	F	L	A	T	I	O	N			
G	O	O		O	R	C	A			E	L	I	S	H	A					
L	U	N	A		K	I	D			E	L	B	A							
G	A	N	D	A		A	U	K	S		E	O	N							
G	E	N	D	E	R	I	D	E	N	T	I	T	I	T	Y					
				S	I	G	N			E	A	R								
				U	R	E		G	U	T	I	N	S	T	I	N	C	T		
P	E	N	I	N	S	U	L	A	S			N	A	I	R					
D	E	U	C	E		N	I	T	E			A	N	T	E					
O	F	F	E		E	A	S	T										G	I	S



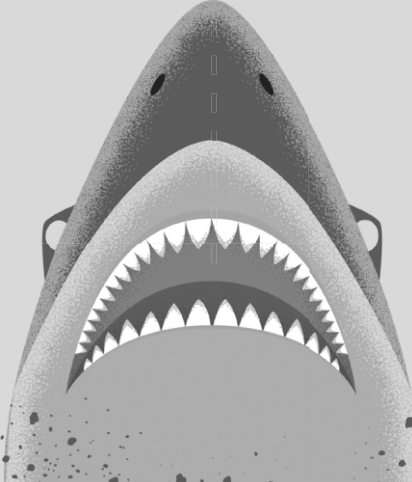


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CHANGE THE OUTCOME.

PREDIABETES DOES.

RISK OF
SHARK ATTACK:
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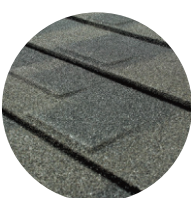
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SPORTS

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UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

'We're going through hell'

Team fighting through roller coaster year with injuries, COVID-19 issues

By Alexa Philippou
Hartford Courant

When UConn senior guard Christyn Williams was out with COVID-19 earlier in January, the latest in a slew of injuries and illnesses the

Huskies had suffered this season, teammate Evina Westbrook joked that the Huskies wouldn't be surprised if they were hit with another stroke of bad luck later on. Westbrook's words rang true not even 10 days later: One game after Williams and freshman Azzi Fudd finally returned, graduate student Dorka Juhász was sidelined Sunday against Providence with a foot injury.

Five of UConn's nine players averaging at least 20 minutes per game have missed time this season. The others? Fudd, who missed 11 games in December and January, reigning national player of the year Paige Bueckers (out 11 games and counting since early December), Williams (missed three games in January) and sophomore Nika Mühl (out three games in December). That's not even counting junior Aubrey

Griffin, a key member of the rotation her previous two seasons with the team who never suited up for 2021-22. As a point of comparison, last season UConn had eight players averaging at least 15 minutes per game, and only two (Mühl and Anna Makurat) missed more than one game. Every team in the country deals with injuries and, more recently,

COVID-19 issues. But this year, the 11-time national champions have gone through "things that have never happened in UConn basketball," in the words of coach Geno Auriemma. Most of its major contributors have been sidelined at some point this season, and the absence of Bueckers (not just her scoring and perimeter shooting but

Turn to UConn, Page 4

WINTER OLYMPICS



Kristen Santos, who grew up in Fairfield, competes in the women's 500-meter finals during the U.S. Olympic short track speedskating trials Dec. 17 in Utah. RICK BOWMER/AP

MEDAL ON HER MIND

Fairfield short track speedskater Kristen Santos wants to do more than just go to Beijing Games

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

In 2018, weeks before the U.S. Olympic short track speedskating trials, a competitor accidentally ran over Kristen Santos' hand and wrist during a warmup for a World Cup competition in China. The Fairfield native had to fly back to the United States and have surgery to repair her sliced tendons. The cast fully covered her arm and hand. She was initially told she wouldn't be able to skate in the trials. With a week and a half to go, Santos, was cleared to skate. She had to have her then-boyfriend (now fiancé) Travis Griswold lace up her skates for her before she raced. She didn't get nervous like she normally would because she had nothing to lose. She finished fourth, one spot away from making the U.S. Olympic short track speedskating team. Rather than see that as a setback, Santos has built on that moment of mental clarity she had in 2018. Last month, she qualified for her first Olympic team and she will compete in the Beijing Games, which begin Feb. 4. "I was just grateful to be able to skate [in 2018]," she said last week from Salt Lake City, Utah, where she lives and trains. "I missed the team by one spot. That's heartbreaking, but that could have been the outcome whether [the injury] happened or not. I wasn't in the best physical shape, but my mental state was a lot better than what it would have otherwise been going into the race. I usually get so

Inside Winter Olympics: Games preview continues with a look at bobsled competitions. **Page 5**

Turn to Santos, Page 4

GIANTS

New coach Daboll ready to get to work in New York

By Tom Canavan
Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — A personable and quick-witted Brian Daboll plans to rebuild the New York Giants working with the players they have and build-

Inside Super Bowl 56: Matchup will feature quarterbacks at opposite ends of their careers — Matthew Stafford and Joe Burrow. **Page 5**

ing schemes to fit their skills. Speaking at his introductory news conference Monday, the former Buffalo Bills offensive

coordinator created some news, saying Pat Graham will return as the Giants defensive coordinator if he does not get a head coaching position with another team. **Turn to Giants, Page 4**

UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL

Huskies have kept Bluejays grounded

No. 17 UConn looks to extend winning streak to 6 games against Creighton

By Shreyas Laddha
Hartford Courant

The UConn men's basketball team is off to its best start in conference play since 2008-09. The Huskies face Creighton at XL Center on Tuesday night coming off five straight Big East victories, including wins against Georgetown and DePaul last week. The wins helped boost UConn to No. 17 in the Associated Press rankings on Monday. The Big East had five teams make the rankings with Villanova at No. 12, Providence at No. 15, UConn, Xavier at No. 21 and Marquette at No. 24. UConn coach Dan Hurley is happy with how his team has played in the conference lately. "Any conference game is hard," he said. "Winning games that you are supposed to win and not having a slip-up is rare. It's hard to do. It's hard to win four or five games in a row in league. It doesn't get done a lot. Even the starts we've had through the conference season, it's been a while since UConn has had this good of a start." It hasn't come easily. The Huskies are coming off an ugly win over DePaul where the offense outside of R.J. Cole heavily struggled. "The bottom line is when you play conference games, you have got to find a way to win," Hurley said. "The better teams and better programs find a way to win even when they have had offensive games or different things happen to them. I like the fact we found a way to win a conference road game when we clearly weren't at our best." UConn faces a young Creighton team on Tuesday. More than 40% of Creighton's points have come from freshmen, but Hurley isn't surprised by its success. "They have a culture in place there," he said. "They've been good for so long now

Turn to Huskies, Page 4

Up next

 **Creighton at UConn**
6:30 p.m., FS1



Safety Tip of the Day

Never let your knees do the driving. If something requires your attention and your hands - pull safely off the road.

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SPORTS

UP NEXT

UConn MBB: Creighton (XL), Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.; at Villanova, Saturday, noon; Marquette (XL), Feb. 8, 6:30 p.m.
UConn WBB: at Creighton, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; Butler (Gampel), Friday, 7 p.m.; Tennessee (XL), Sunday, noon
Celtics: Hornets, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; at Pistons, Friday, 7 p.m.; at Magic, Sunday, 6 p.m.
Knicks: Grizzlies, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; at Lakers, Saturday, 8:30 p.m.; at Jazz, Monday, 9 p.m.
Nets: at Suns, Tuesday, 10 p.m.; at Kings, Wednesday, 10 p.m.; at Jazz, Friday, 9 p.m.
UConn hockey: Providence, Friday, 7 p.m.; at New Hampshire, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; at Merrimack, Feb. 8, 7 p.m.
Bruins: Kraken, Tuesday, 7 p.m.; Penguins, Feb. 8, 7 p.m.; Hurricanes, Feb. 10, 7 p.m.
Rangers: Panthers, Tuesday, 7 p.m.; Bruins, Feb. 15, 7 p.m.; Red Wings, Feb. 17, 7 p.m.
Wolf Pack: at Hershey, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; at Springfield, Friday, 7 p.m.; Lehigh Valley, Saturday, 5 p.m.

TV/RADIO

BASKETBALL
6 p.m.: Boston College at Virginia. (Live) ACC
6:30 p.m.: Creighton at UConn. (Live) FS1
7 p.m.: Texas A&M at Tennessee. (Live) SEC
7 p.m.: Davidson at St. Bonaventure. (Live) CBSSN
7 p.m.: Kansas at Iowa State. (Live) ESPN
7 p.m.: Michigan State at Maryland. (Live) ESPN2
7 p.m.: South Carolina at Mississippi State. (Live) ESPNU
7:30 p.m.: Wizards at Bucks. (Live) TNT
8 p.m.: North Carolina at Louisville. (Live) ACC
8:30 p.m.: Seton Hall at Georgetown. (Live) FS1
9 p.m.: Ole Miss at LSU. (Live) SEC
9 p.m.: Providence at St. John's. (Live) CBSSN
9 p.m.: Alabama at Auburn. (Live) ESPN
9 p.m.: Texas at Texas Tech. (Live) ESPN2
9 p.m.: Tulsa at Wichita State. (Live) ESPNU
10 p.m.: Nets at Suns. (Live) TNT, YES
10:30 p.m.: Nevada at UNLV. (Live) FS1
11 p.m.: Fresno State at San Jose State. (Live) CBSSN
HOCKEY
7 p.m.: Kraken at Bruins. (Live) NESN
7 p.m.: Panthers at Rangers. (Live) Hulu, ESPN+

HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

Gavin Sherry again Gatorade Connecticut player of year

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

Conard senior Gavin Sherry, who won the Class L, State Open and New England cross country championships in the fall, was named the Gatorade Connecticut Boys Cross Country Player of the Year for the third consecutive year on Monday.

Sherry, who will attend Stanford in the fall, also won the Eastbay Cross Country Northeast Regional at Van Cortlandt Park in New York in November and finished third at the Eastbay Cross Country Championships in 15:17.3 in San Diego in December.

“Gavin Sherry wasn’t even challenged until nationals this year,” said Simsbury coach Erik Petersen, according to the Gatorade release. “He is extremely talented and he packages that with an incredibly driven work ethic.”

Sherry has continued his success in indoor track. On Saturday, Sherry set a meet record at the Millrose Games in the high school mile (4:06.58), becoming only the second Connecticut runner to win the title.

Lori Riley can be reached at lriley@courant.com.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL WEEK 7

Simsbury nets low-scoring victory

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

With two of his top players out due to injuries, Simsbury boys basketball coach Greg Stillman was still a little shocked that his players had only managed to score seven points at halftime against Southington last Wednesday.

“I told the kids, ‘I’ve coached fourth grade travel basketball and I don’t remember ever scoring that few points,’” Stillman said. “I kind of looked at everybody at halftime and said, ‘We’re down two of our main guys.’ I looked at every kid. ‘We’re going to need you guys to score, each one of you.’”

Aidan Riordan stepped up. Riordan, a senior captain, scored all 17 of Simsbury’s second-half points, including the game-winning 5-footer at the buzzer, and Simsbury won 24-22.

“That was not by design,” Stillman said. “He kind of put the team on his back. It was a leadership moment for him.

“Between him and the team working together defensively to stop Southington ... it was one of the most improbable wins I’ve had in my 16 years.”

Simsbury (11-2) will play Farmington and Granby this week. Stillman said he hopes to get his two injured players, senior Chris Kokines and sophomore Anthony Simpson, back this week.

Players of the week

Mahki Anderson, Platt: Anderson had 24 points in a 52-44 win over Plainville last



Windsor’s Raymond Rodriguez, pictured driving to the basket against Northwest Catholic on Jan. 6, had 17 points in a victory over Farmington on Friday. JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

Monday and 12 in a 84-50 victory over Bristol Eastern on Friday.

Trevor Buchanan, Bolton: Buchanan scored 29 points in a 68-56 win over HMTCA last Tuesday.

Michael Coggins, Suffield: Coggins scored 34 points in a 61-41 win over Bolton on Wednesday and 32 points, going 8 for 8 from the free throw line, in a 66-44 win over Windsor Locks on Friday.

Nick Gagliardi, Newington: Gagliardi scored a career-high 22 points and had six assists and six steals in a 72-60 victory over Maloney last Tuesday.

Jamie Leggett, St. Paul: Leggett went 6 for 7 from the free throw line in overtime and had 31 points in a 71-67 victory over Woodland Friday night.

Anthony Parker, Xavier: Parker hit a 12-foot jump

shot with 1.4 seconds left as Xavier beat Guilford 34-32 last Tuesday. Parker finished with 12 points.

Isaiah Reece, Canton: Reece hit two free throws with no time left on the clock to boost Canton to a 49-47 victory over Windsor Locks last Tuesday. Reece led Canton with 20 points.

Aidan Riordan, Simsbury: Riordan scored 19 of Simsbury’s 24 points, including all 17 in the second half in a 24-22 win over Southington on Wednesday, then had 23 points, 14 rebounds and four assists in a 45-35 win over South Windsor on Thursday.

Raymond Rodriguez, Windsor: Rodriguez had 17 points, five assists, six steals and five rebounds in an 87-66 win over Farmington on Friday.

Chris Wilson, Weaver:

Wilson had 15 rebounds, nine points and five blocks in a 55-50 overtime win over Achievement First last Monday.

Teams of the week

Middletown: The Blue Dragons (7-3) have won four straight with victories over Prince Tech, Manchester, Hartford Public and Enfield.

Platt: Behind 20 points from Anthony Nimani and 17 from Justin Black, the Panthers (9-3) won their seventh consecutive game, 84-50, over Bristol Eastern pn Friday.

Stafford: The Bulldogs have won eight of their last nine games, falling to HMTCA, 48-47 on Jan. 18. Stafford (8-2) halted Canton’s four-game win streak last Friday, winning 43-38.

Storylines of the week

■ Ellington (9-4) lost to unbeaten SMSA 66-60 last Tuesday for its second straight loss but rallied the next night to defeat Granby (9-3) 81-69 behind Mike Bontempo’s 30 points. The Purple Knights finished the week with a 52-43 win over HMTCA.

■ Cromwell (11-0) knocked off Hale-Ray 60-52 on Friday in a game between the top two teams in the Shoreline Conference. Hale-Ray (10-3) had won five straight.

■ After five games at home, Bloomfield (10-0) is on the road for the next five games, starting in New Britain on Monday, and the long road stretch will end at Lewis Mills on Feb. 9.

Games to watch this week

Northwest Catholic at Conard, Tuesday: Northwest (10-1) will travel cross town to face Conard (10-1). Northwest’s only loss is to Wilbur Cross. Conard has only lost to Farmington.

Farmington at Simsbury, Tuesday: Farmington (9-4) will try to bounce back from a loss to Windsor against Simsbury (11-2), winner of four consecutive games.

Stafford at Somers, Friday: Somers (9-2) has won five straight and will host Stafford (8-2), which has also won five straight, in an NCCC game.

Lori Riley can be reached at lriley@courant.com.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL WEEK 7

Farmington back in a groove after COVID-19 shortage

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

The Farmington girls basketball team went through a stretch at the start of the season where it was missing four of its top six players due to COVID-19.

In a 73-41 loss to St. Joseph-Trumbull on Dec. 29, Farmington coach Keith Garbart started two junior varsity players and was missing three starters. In a two-point loss to RHAM on Jan. 6, he also started two JV players. On Jan. 19, the River Hawks lost 57-37 to Hand.

“Hand was our first game we had everybody back,” Garbart said. “We played them tight for 2 ½ quarters.”

They haven’t lost since, knocking off unbeaten Southington 45-41 on Thursday.

“That will make us better,” Garbart said. “We knew we were deep, but now I know we are deep after what we did during that stretch.”

Farmington (11-3) has a tough stretch coming up: Simsbury on Tuesday, Enfield on Thursday, Southington again on Feb. 7 then Hamden on Feb. 9.

“It was nice to get the Southington game,” he said. “It was good to get a win against a really good team.”

Players of the week

Ericka Aponte, Goodwin Tech: Aponte had 13 points, 10 rebounds and four blocks in a 40-35 win over O’Brien Tech last Monday and 20 points in a 43-33 victory over Prince Tech last Tuesday.

Kaleigh Bodak, Haddam-Killingworth: Bodak scored 30 points in a 45-38 win over Old Saybrook on Friday.

Shea Cassidy, Somers: Cassidy scored 23 points in a 67-40 win over Aerospace last Monday.

Mari Figueroa, Hartford Public: Figueroa had 23 points and 15 rebounds, but her team lost to Windsor 68-35 last Tuesday.

Tristin Oberg, Windsor Locks: Oberg had 13 rebounds and four points in a 41-33 win over Canton last Tuesday and had 13 points in a 52-35 win over Suffield on Friday.

Shailyn Pinkney, East Hartford:



East Hartford’s Shailyn Pinkney, left, fights Newington’s Arianna Barnes for a loose ball Friday at East Hartford High School. East Hartford handed Newington its first loss of the season, 52-37. CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

Pinkney, a senior guard, scored 17 points to help East Hartford knock off Newington 52-37 on Friday night and had 17 in a 42-28 win over Windsor last Tuesday.

Jaylice Rosario, Maloney: Rosario had 22 points, 14 rebounds, four assists and three steals in a 50-24 victory over Platt last Tuesday.

Alyssa Rossignol, Enfield: Rossignol scored 26 points in a 46-45 win over New Britain last Monday. She hit the winning free throw with 0.8 of a second left in a 50-49 win over Ledyard on Wednesday and finished with 22 points and nine rebounds. And in a 64-56 victory over RHAM on Friday, she netted 22 points.

Lauren Sabia, Simsbury: Sabia scored a career-high 33 points in a 54-49 loss to Middletown last Tuesday.

Sarah West, RHAM: West had 22 points and 12 rebounds, but RHAM lost its second game of the season to Enfield 64-56 on Friday night.

Teams of the week

Coventry: The Patriots (8-3) are on a three-game winning streak after a 52-30 victory over Suffield last Tuesday and a 53-40 win over

Somers on Friday.

Farmington: The River Hawks beat Southington 45-41 on Thursday, the first loss for Southington after the Blue Knights started the season with 13 straight wins.

Middletown: The Blue Dragons (11-2) got a big win over Simsbury, 54-49, last Tuesday behind 22 points from Tyah Petteway. Simsbury is 13-2, with its only other loss to Southington.

Storylines of the week

■ Sacred Heart of Hamden played Lyman Hall of Wallingford again in an SCC game on Friday. Sacred Heart won 52-30, almost a month after it beat Lyman 92-4, sparking a furor over the unbalanced score.

■ East Hartford handed Newington its first loss, 52-37, Friday night behind 17 points from Seton Hall-bound Pinkney and 16 points from Nia Edens. The Hornets are 12-1. Newington is 14-1. The two teams will not meet again in the regular season or the state playoffs but could meet again in the CCC tournament.

■ Enfield (13-1) went up against RHAM (12-2) on Friday in a CCC East Patriot division game and prevailed 64-56. Rossignol scored 22 points

and Amyah Rosado had 24 for Enfield. The two teams will meet again in the last game of the regular season on Feb. 14.

■ Bloomfield forfeited the rest of its 10 games after it was not able to field enough players for a team. The Warhawks were down to five players, including two inexperienced freshmen, due to injuries. Bloomfield went 2-7 before the forfeits.

Games to watch this week

Bacon Academy at RHAM, Wednesday: RHAM (12-2), whose only losses were to Conard and Enfield, hosts Bacon Academy (12-1), whose only loss came to E.O. Smith.

Enfield at Farmington, Thursday: Farmington (11-3) will try to stop a high-scoring Enfield squad (13-1), which has won 11 straight, in this CCC interdivisional game.

Valley Regional at East Hampton, Friday: Valley is undefeated (11-0), and East Hampton has only one loss — to Valley, 41-28, on Dec. 21.

Lori Riley can be reached at lriley@courant.com.

UHART 78, MAINE 66

Williams leads Hartford men to victory at Maine

Staff report

Senior guard Austin Williams had 20 points, nine rebounds and three assists, and junior forward Hunter Marks finished with 16 points, five rebounds, four assists and three blocks to lead the University of Hartford past Maine 78-66 in an America East men’s basketball game Monday night in Bangor, Maine. The game

was rescheduled from Jan. 5.

Sophomore guard Moses Flowers and senior guard David Shriver each scored 14 for the Hawks (5-12, 3-2), who have won two in a row.

Hartford hit 8 of 17 3-pointers (47.1%), including 4 of 8 from Shriver. Shriver entered the game leading the conference in 3-pointers made per game (2.5) and third in 3-point percentage (40.4), which

ranked 47th in the nation.

The Hawks shot 26 for 43 overall (60.5%). They entered the game ranked second in the America East in field goal percentage (45.6%).

Junior guard Maks Klanjscek had 23 points on 9 of 16 shooting for the Black Bears (4-16, 1-8), who have lost three in a row. Sophomore guard Vukasin Masic scored 18 points for Maine.

Hartford led 37-36 at the half and outscored Maine 41-30 in the second half.

It was the Hawks’ eighth victory in the last nine meetings with Maine. A busy week for the Hawks — with three games in six days — continues Wednesday when they travel to New Hampshire for a 7 p.m. game. They return home Saturday to host Albany at Chase Arena at 7 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

NBA				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	30	19	.612	—
Brooklyn	29	20	.592	1
Toronto	24	23	.511	5
Boston	26	25	.510	5
New York	23	27	.460	7½
SOUTHEAST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Miami	32	18	.640	—
Charlotte	28	23	.549	4½
Atlanta	24	25	.490	7½
Washington	23	26	.469	8½
Orlando	11	40	.216	21½
CENTRAL				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Chicago	31	18	.633	—
Cleveland	30	20	.600	1½
Milwaukee	31	21	.596	1½
Indiana	18	33	.353	14
Detroit	12	37	.245	19
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
SOUTHWEST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Memphis	35	17	.673	—
Dallas	29	22	.569	5½
San Antonio	19	32	.373	15½
New Orleans	18	31	.367	15½
Houston	14	35	.286	19½
NORTHWEST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Utah	30	21	.588	—
Denver	28	21	.571	1
Minnesota	25	25	.500	4½
Portland	21	29	.420	8½
Oklahoma City	14	34	.292	14½
PACIFIC				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Phoenix	40	9	.816	—
Golden State	37	13	.740	3½
L.A. Clippers	26	26	.500	15½
L.A. Lakers	24	27	.471	17
Sacramento	18	33	.353	23

MONDAY'S RESULTS
L.A. Clippers at Indiana, late
Memphis at Philadelphia, late
New Orleans at Cleveland, late
Miami at Boston, late
Sacramento at New York, late
Toronto at Atlanta, late
Golden State at Houston, late
Portland at Oklahoma City, late

TUESDAY'S GAMES
New Orleans at Detroit, 7p.m.
Miami at Toronto, 7:30p.m.
Washington at Milwaukee, 7:30p.m.
Denver at Minnesota, 8p.m.
Orlando at Chicago, 8p.m.
Golden State at San Antonio, 8:30p.m.
Brooklyn at Phoenix, 10p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
Orlando at Indiana, 7p.m.
Washington at Philadelphia, 7p.m.
Charlotte at Boston, 7:30p.m.
Memphis at New York, 7:30p.m.
Cleveland at Houston, 8p.m.
Oklahoma City at Dallas, 8:30p.m.
Brooklyn at Sacramento, 10p.m.
Denver at Utah, 10p.m.
Portland at L.A. Lakers, 10:30p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Minnesota at Detroit, 7p.m.
Chicago at Toronto, 7:30p.m.
Phoenix at Atlanta, 7:30p.m.
Miami at San Antonio, 8:30p.m.
L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers, 10p.m.
Sacramento at Golden State, 10p.m.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
Atlanta 129, L.A. Lakers 121
L.A. Clippers 115, Charlotte 90
Chicago 130, Portland 116
Detroit 115, Cleveland 105
Denver 136, Milwaukee 100
Orlando 110, Dallas 108
Phoenix 115, San Antonio 110
Minnesota 126, Utah 106

SOCCER									
ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE									
CLUB	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT		
Man City	23	18	3	2	55	14	57		
Liverpool	22	14	6	2	58	19	48		
Chelsea	24	13	8	3	48	18	47		
Man United	22	11	5	6	36	30	38		
West Ham	23	11	4	8	41	31	37		
Arsenal	21	11	3	7	33	25	36		
Tottenham	20	11	3	6	26	24	36		
Wolverhampton	21	10	4	7	19	16	34		
Brighton	22	6	12	4	23	23	30		
Leicester	20	7	5	8	34	37	26		
Aston Villa	21	8	2	11	28	32	26		
Southampton	22	5	10	7	26	34	25		
Crystal Palace	22	5	9	8	31	34	24		
Brentford	23	6	5	12	26	38	23		
Leeds	21	5	7	9	24	40	22		
Everton	20	5	4	11	24	35	19		
Norwich	22	4	4	14	13	45	16		
Newcastle	21	2	9	10	21	43	15		
Watford	20	4	2	14	23	40	14		
Burnley	18	1	9	8	16	27	12		

SATURDAY'S MATCH
Burnley vs. Watford, 1p.m.

U.S. MEN'S SCHEDULE (1-1-0)
q-Jan. 27: U.S. 1, El Salvador 0
q-Jan. 30: at Canada 2, U.S. 0
q-Wednesday vs. Honduras at St. Paul, Minn., 7:30 p.m.
q-World Cup qualifying

U.S. WOMEN'S SCHEDULE
s-Feb. 17: vs. Czech Republic, 11 p.m. at Dignity Health Sports Park, Carson, Calif.
s-Feb. 20: vs. New Zealand, 3 p.m. at Dignity Health Sports Park, Carson, Calif.
s-Feb. 23: vs. Iceland, 9 p.m. at Toyota Stadium, Frisco, Texas
s-SheBelieves Cup

ODDS				
COLLEGE BASKETBALL				
FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG		
at Virginia	8	Boston College		
at UConn	9½	Creighton		
at Siena	4	Canisius		
at Ohio	12	Ball State		
at Tennessee	11	Texas A&M		
Michigan State	5	at Maryland		
Kansas	3½	at Iowa State		
at Miami (Ohio)	2	Kent State		
at W. Michigan	2	Northern Illinois		
at St. Bonaventure	3	at Davidson		
Toledo	10	at E. Michigan		
Bowling Green	7	at Cent. Michigan		
Richmond	7	at Duquesne		
at Mississippi St.	8	South Carolina		
North Carolina	3½	at Louisville		
at Michigan	14½	Nebraska		
at Auburn	7	Alabama		
at LSU	14	Mississippi		
at St. John's (NY)	2	Providence		
at Texas Tech	4½	Texas		
at Utah State	14½	Air Force		
at Wichita State	7½	Tulsa		
at UC Riverside	6	UC Davis		
at Stanford	5½	California		
at UNLV	3½	Nevada		
Fresno State	11	at San Jose State		

NBA				
FAVORITE	LINE	O/U	TUESDAY	UNDERDOG
at Detroit	Off	(Off)	New Orleans	
at Toronto	Off	(Off)	Miami	
at Milwaukee	Off	(Off)	Washington	
at Chicago	Off	(Off)	Denver	
at Minnesota	Off	(Off)	Orlando	
at San Antonio	Off	(Off)	Golden State	
at Phoenix	Off	(Off)	Brooklyn	

NHL				
FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE	
Florida	-138	at NY Rangers	+115	
Winnipeg	-152	at Philadelphia	+126	
at Boston	-275	Seattle	+220	
Toronto	-197	at New Jersey	+165	
at Pittsburgh	-162	Washington	+134	
at Tampa Bay	-295	San Jose	+235	
at NY Islanders	-275	Ottawa	+120	
at Nashville	-196	Vancouver	+162	
Calgary	-132	at Arizona	+110	
at Colorado	-580	Arizona	+420	
at Veagas	-360	Buffalo	+285	

NFL SUPER BOWL LVI
FAVORITE SP O/U **UNDERDOG**
LA Rams 4 (48½) at Cincinnati
Any player to win Super Bowl LVI finish with 125+ receiving yards
Yes -135 No +105
For the latest odds, go to FanDuel Sportsbook, https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/

NHL									
EASTERN CONFERENCE									
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Florida	45	31	9	5	67	184	130		
Tampa Bay	45	29	10	6	64	154	128		
Toronto	40	27	10	3	57	140	107		
Boston	42	25	14	3	53	128	118		
Detroit	45	19	20	6	44	125	156		
Buffalo	44	14	23	7	35	115	152		
Ottawa	38	13	21	4	30	106	130		
Montreal	44	8	29	7	23	99	172		
METRO.	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Carolina	42	31	9	2	64	147	98		
N.Y. Rangers	46	29	13	4	62	140	120		
Pittsburgh	45	27	11	7	61	151	120		
Washington	45	24	12	9	57	145	122		
Columbus	42	20	21	1	41	132	151		
N.Y. Islanders	37	15	16	6	36	89	101		
Philadelphia	44	14	22	8	36	110	151		
New Jersey	43	15	23	5	35	121	150		

WESTERN CONFERENCE									
CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Colorado	43	32	8	3	67	181	126		
Nashville	45	27	14	4	58	140	123		
Minnesota	40	27	10	3	57	156	120		
St. Louis	44	26	13	5	57	153	121		
Dallas	42	23	17	2	48	126	127		
Winnipeg	41	18	16	7	43	119	125		
Chicago	44	16	21	7	39	111	148		
Arizona	40	13	29	4	24	94	163		
PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Vegas	45	26	16	3	55	153	135		
Anaheim	47	23	16	8	54	140	135		
Los Angeles	46	23	16	7	53	131	127		
Calgary	40	21	13	6	48	128	99		
San Jose	45	22	20	3	47	124	139		
Edmonton	40	22	16	2	46	135	132		
Vancouver	44	19	19	6	44	110	121		
Seattle	44	14	26	4	32	116	156		

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Florida at Columbus, late
Anaheim at Detroit, late
Edmonton at Ottawa, late
New Jersey at Toronto, late
Vancouver at Chicago, late

TUESDAY'S GAMES
Florida at N.Y. Rangers, 7p.m.
San Jose at Tampa Bay, 7p.m.
Seattle at Boston, 7p.m.
Toronto at New Jersey, 7p.m.
Washington at Pittsburgh, 7p.m.
Winnipeg at Philadelphia, 7p.m.
Ottawa at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30p.m.
Vancouver at Nashville, 8p.m.
Calgary at Dallas, 8:30p.m.
Arizona at Colorado, 9p.m.
Buffalo at Vegas, 10p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
Edmonton at Washington, 7p.m.
Seattle at N.Y. Islanders, 7p.m.
Los Angeles at Detroit, 7:30p.m.
Calgary at Arizona, 9:30p.m.
Minnesota at Chicago, 9:30p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAMES
No games scheduled

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
N.Y. Rangers 3, Seattle 2
Los Angeles 4, Pittsburgh 3
Carolina 2, San Jose 1
Dallas 6, Boston 1
Columbus 6, Montreal 3
Minnesota 4, N.Y. Islanders 3
Colorado 4, Buffalo 1

NFL PLAYOFFS

SUPER BOWL LVI
Sunday, Feb. 13, at Sofi Stadium, Inglewood, Calif.
No. 4 L.A. Rams (15-5) vs. No. 4 Cincinnati (13-7), 6:30 p.m.

PRO BOWL
Sunday at Allegiant Stadium, Las Vegas, 3 p.m.

LATE SUNDAY/NFC CHAMPIONSHIP
L.A. RAMS 20, SAN FRANCISCO 17
San Francisco 0 10 7 0 - 17
L.A. Rams 0 7 0 13 - 20

Second Quarter
LAR: Kupp 16pass from Stafford (Gay kick), 8:46.
SF: Samuel 44pass from Garoppolo (Gould kick), 6:10.
SF: FG Gould 38, -300.
Third Quarter
SF: Kittle 16pass from Garoppolo (Gould kick), 1:59.
Fourth Quarter
LAR: Kupp 11pass from Stafford (Gay kick), 13:30.
LAR: FG Gay 40, 6:49.
LAR: FG Gay 30, 1:46.

TEAM STATS

First downs	16	25
Total net yards	282	396
Rushes-yards	20-50	29-70
Passing	232	326
Punt returns	1-9	0-0
Kickoff returns	2-26	1-24
Interceptions ret.	1-23	1-6
Comp-att-int	16-30-1	31-45-1
Sacked-yards lost	0-0	2-11
Punts	5-37.6	1-58.0
Fumbles-lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-yards	6-54	2-10
Time of possession	24:21	35:39

RUSHING: San Francisco, Samuel 7-26, Mitchell 11-20, Garoppolo 1-4, Juszczyk 1-0. L.A. Rams, C.Akers 13-48, Michel 10-16, Stafford 5-8, Kupp 1-(-2).
PASSING: San Francisco, Garoppolo 16-30-1-232. L.A. Rams, Stafford 31-45-1-337.
RECEIVING: San Francisco, Samuel 4-72, Aiyuk 4-69, Mitchell 3-50, Kittle 2-27, Jennings 2-8, Hasty 1-6. L.A. Rams, Kupp 11-142, Beckham 9-113, Blanton 5-57, Higbee 2-18, Jefferson 2-9, C.Akers 1-2, Michel 1-(-4).
MISSED FIELD GOALS: Rams, Gay 54.
TACKLES-ASSISTS-SACKS: SF, Thomas 10-3-0, Bosa 4-2-1.5, Ebukam 1-2-5. Rams, Reeder 6-2-0, Donald 0-3-0.
INTERCEPTIONS: San Francisco, Ward 1-23. L.A. Rams, Howard 1-6.

2022 FIRST-ROUND DRAFT ORDER
Draft: April 28-30 at Allegiant Stadium, Paradise, Nevada

PK	TEAM	REC	SOS
1	Jacksonville Jaguars	3-14	.512
2	Detroit Lions	3-13-1	.528
3	Houston Texans	4-13	.498
4	N.Y. Jets	4-13	.512
5	N.Y. Giants	4-13	.536
6	Carolina Panthers	5-12	.509
7	Chicago (to NYG)	6-11	.524
8	Atlanta Falcons	7-10	.472
9	Denver Broncos	7-10	.484
10	Seattle (to NYJ)	7-10	.519
11	Washington FB	7-10	.529
12	Minnesota Vikings	8-9	.507
13	Cleveland Browns	8-9	.514
14	Baltimore Ravens	8-9	.531
15	Miami (to Phil.)	9-8	.464
16	Indpls (to Phil.)	9-8	.495
17	L.A. Chargers	9-8	.510
18	New Orleans Saints	9-8	.512
19	Philadelphia Eagles	9-8	.469
20	Pittsburgh Steelers	9-7-1	.521
21	New England	10-7	.481
22	Las Vegas Raiders	10-7	.510
23	Dallas Cowboys	12-5	.488
24	Arizona Cardinals	11-6	.490
25	Buffalo Bills	11-6	.472
26	Tennessee Titans	12-5	.472
27	Tampa Bay Bucs	13-4	.467
28	Green Bay Packers	13-4	.479
29	San Fran... (to Mia.)	10-7	.500
30	Kansas City Chiefs	12-5	.538
Rest of Rd. 1 subject to playoff finish			
	Cincinnati Bengals	10-7	.472
	L.A. Rams (to Det.)	12-5	.483

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Tuesday: Creighton at
XL Center, 6:30 p.m., FS1

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Wednesday: at Creighton,
7:30 p.m., SNY

UConn
COURANT.COM/SPORTS



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Maame Biney, from left, Kristen Santos, Corinne Stoddard and Julie Letai compete in the women's 500-meter finals during the U.S. Olympic short track speedskating trials Dec. 19 in Utah. **RICK BOWMER/AP**

Santos

from Page 1

nervous and worked up. I would skate more to not lose something rather than to gain something. For me, that was kind of a learning experience. I still skated well because my mental state was a lot better.

"It's something I've worked on the last four years, staying calmer before races. I've come up with little tactics before races to get into the right mindset. Hopefully I've done enough to be able to utilize all that at the Olympics."

Santos, 27, will compete in the 500, 1,000 and 1,500 meters and the women's and mixed relays in Beijing. She is the American record holder in the 500 and 1,000.

She began figure skating at age 3. When she was 8 or 9, she saw a Disney commercial featuring speed skating and decided that looked like more fun than figure skating.

"I begged my mom to take me after that," Santos said. "At first, she kind of ignored it, thinking I

would forget about it. I did not. My first practice was at Yale. It was me and a bunch of old men.

"My mom is like, 'All right, she's going to absolutely hate this.' But I loved it."

She kept it up through high school, competing nationally and internationally against skaters who were homeschooled and skated all the time. Santos went to Fairfield Warde and played soccer, ran track and skated once or twice a week.

"Everybody [in high school] was obsessed with the fact I did it and it was what I was known for," she said. "Growing up, being a speed skater, people would introduce me to other people and say, 'She's an Olympian' and all this stuff. That used to really bother me because I wasn't. I'm like, 'Yeah, hopefully.' It's kind of weird now because now people say it and it's true."

She graduated from Fairfield Warde in 2012 and moved to Utah to train with the national team and attend the University of Utah. It was a big step up for her.

"I was used to [training] for a

couple hours a week and not 40 hours a week," she said. "That was an adjustment. But I'm grateful that I didn't have that at a younger age for myself. I know myself well enough to know I wouldn't have been able to handle that. I would have burnt out.

"Even though I would have been better at a young age, I don't think I would have reached where I am now."

She went to the Olympic Trials in 2014 but it was more for the experience.

"Before the 2018 Olympic trials, my dream was to be an Olympian," she said. "But I think after that, missing the team by one spot, I kind of realized that even if I had gone, I wasn't going to be a competitive person at those Games.

"That was when I realized my goal wasn't just to be an Olympian to be an Olympian. I want to be an Olympic medalist. I want to be in the mix of things. That was a big motivator for me the last four years."

Lori Riley can be reached at lriley@courant.com.

Giants

from Page 1

Daboll, 46, spent 40 hours over the weekend, talking with candidates for his coaching staff, including some other members of Joe Judge's staff.

He would not put a timeline on turning things around for the Giants, who went 4-13 this past season, their fifth straight double-digit losing season. They have made the playoffs once (2016) since winning the Super Bowl in February 2012.

"All I know how to do is work, work with people, try to build a culture, unite a building, inspire players, coaches, support staff;

listen, learn and then ultimately develop the people in our building," Daboll said.

His biggest job will be to turn around the Giants' anemic offense and to get more out of quarterback Daniel Jones. The No. 6 overall pick in 2019 has had three consecutive seasons of change since joining the NFL. This will be No. 4 for Jones, who missed the final six games of the season with a neck injury.

Daboll refused to compare Jones with other quarterbacks, adding it's his hope to provide him with some stability.

If anything came across at the news conference it was Daboll's personality. He was relaxed, at ease with who he is. He frequently

joked with reporters.

Daboll said he believes in five things: being authentic, consistent, communicating clearly, building relationships and being a leader.

"I feel prepared," he said. "Yeah, so I know there'll be some obstacles and challenges, of course. That's this league. You've got to be resilient in this league. Certainly here you've got to be resilient right here."

Daboll, who also interviewed for the head coaching job with the Dolphins, said one of the things that drew him to the Giants job was the chance to work again with new general manager Joe Schoen. The two spent the past four seasons in Buffalo, with Schoen serving as assistant general manager.

Huskies

from Page 1

that they've got the program confidence. Whoever puts on a uniform they're going to be successful, they're going to win and going to be NCAA caliber."

The Bluejays are coming off two straight losses, against Butler and Xavier.

"They will be desperate," Hurley said. "We can't allow them to be more desperate than us."

Here's everything else you need to know about the matchup:

The basics

Time: 6:30 p.m., Tuesday
Place: XL Center, Hartford
Series: Creighton leads 3-0
Last meeting: Creighton won, 59-56, in a Big East Tournament game on March 12, 2021, at Madison Square Garden, New York
TV: FS1 (John Fanta, Bill Raftery)
Live Stream: Fox Sports app
Radio: UConn Sports Network (Mike Crispino, Wayne Norman). XM-201. Sirius-137. XM-205. SXM app-968. 97.9-ESPN Hartford.

WILI-1400-AM (Willimantic).
WATR-1320-AM (Waterbury).
WAVZ-1300-AM (New Haven).
WGCH-1490-AM (Greenwich).

Creighton (12-7, 4-4 Big East) probable starters, sixth man

Ryan Nembhard, G, 6-0, Fr.; Alex O'Connell, G, 6-6, Sr.; Ryan Kalkbrenner, C, 7-0, So.; Arthur Kaluma, F, 6-7, Fr.; Ryan Hawkins, F, 6-7, Sr.; Paul Scruggs, G, 6-4, Sr.

No. 17 UConn (15-4, 6-2) probable starters, sixth man

R.J. Cole, G, 6-1, GS; Isaiah Whaley, F, 6-9, GS; Adama Sanogo, F, 6-9, So.; Tyrese Martin, G/F, 6-6, Sr.; Andre Jackson, G/F, 6-6, So.; Jordan Hawkins, G, 6-5, Fr.

The matchup

UConn offense: Don't start slow offensively and make sure Sanogo is aggressive from the tipoff.
UConn defense: The Huskies

need to force turnovers as the Bluejays average 14.8 a game, tied for No. 320 in Division I.

Creighton offense: The offense is incredibly balanced, with four scorers averaging double-digit points (O'Connell, Hawkins, Kalkbrenner and Nembhard).
Creighton defense: Creighton is No. 10 in NCAA Division I at opponent two-point percentage with 42.8% according to KenPom, so the Huskies need to take smart shots inside the arc.

UConn's key: Need to force turnovers from this young team while making shots beyond the arc.
Player to watch: Tyler Polley. His 3-point shooting is pivotal in a game where shots inside the arc could be difficult.

About Creighton's coach: Greg McDermott. He coached Creighton to its first Big East title in 2019-20. His son, Doug, plays in the NBA.

Creighton's mascot: Bluejay. The mascot was chosen in 1923.
Creighton famous alumni: Former NBA player Kyle Korver.

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UConn

from Page 1

her facilitating, and yes, even her defense) remains the most glaring.

"We talk about it all the time in the locker room," Westbrook said earlier in January. "When it rains, it pours, and I feel like for us this year we cannot catch a break with anything."

Put more bluntly: "We're going through hell, literally," Mühl said.

With Juhász the latest player to go down, here's a timeline that illustrates not only how a roster of 14 to start the 2021-22 campaign couldn't field the requisite seven players just six weeks later, but also how a team with championship expectations is facing an uphill battle to fulfill those dreams heading into February.

Injuries from the start: The Huskies start 2021-22 short-handed from the jump, as Griffin is still nursing a high-ankle sprain from the preseason and freshman Saylor Poffenbarger deals with a shin issue. Neither appears in UConn's exhibition against Fort Hays State, nor the season opener against Arkansas, which UConn wins 95-80.

Poffenbarger leaves: One day after the opener, Poffenbarger announces she's transferring. She ends up at Arkansas.

UConn suffers first loss of season: Following wins against Minnesota and USF, No. 2 UConn falls to top-ranked South Carolina in the Battle 4 Atlantis championship game. Fudd plays just 10 minutes and doesn't look like herself. Freshman Caroline Ducharme, who had a rocky start to the season, doesn't take the floor (coach's decision).

Fudd sidelined: Auriemma announces on Dec. 1 that Fudd will be out to treat the beginning of a stress reaction in her right foot and that she'll be reassessed in two weeks. He says he expects Griffin to be able to make her season debut that upcoming weekend against Seton Hall. Griffin is ruled out the following day.

Bueckers injured: In the final minute of UConn's 73-54 win over current No. 20 Notre Dame on Dec. 5, Bueckers attempts a jab step and her left knee gives out. She is diagnosed with a tibial plateau fracture, and later a meniscus tear, with an expected recovery timeline of six to eight weeks.

Mühl out: Before the Huskies even take the floor without Bueckers for the first time, they lose another guard. Mühl is ruled out for at least three weeks with a nagging foot issue that bothered her last season. UConn is forced to work with just three guards for the foreseeable future.

Georgia Tech loss: UConn has its lowest point total since 2006 in a 57-44 loss to Georgia Tech, its first loss to an unranked team since 2012. Auriemma says he fears the team's problems are unfixable. The Yellow Jackets eventually enter the Associated Press Top 25 and are currently slotted at 12.

Mir McLean departs: Sophomore Mir McLean announces Dec. 13 she's transferring. She ends up at Virginia, and after obtaining a waiver from the NCAA, became eligible to play beginning this week.

Bueckers undergoes surgery: Bueckers undergoes knee surgery on Dec. 13. Her recovery is extended a few more weeks into February.

Louisville loss: Shining in a larger role with so many players injured, Ducharme breaks out for her first 20-point game, and UConn leads for the majority of the afternoon before falling to Louisville. For the first time since 2004, UConn has three losses before January. As a result, the Huskies drop out of AP top 10 for first time since the 2004-05 season.

COVID-19 hits: UConn sees its first four games back from the holidays (against Marquette, at DePaul, at Georgetown, at Villanova) canceled due to COVID-19 issues — the latter three because of COVID-19 in UConn's program. Auriemma later says that four players contracted the virus, which combined with so many injuries, prevents the Huskies from fielding the minimum of seven players required to play.

Back in action: The Huskies finally return to the court, defeat-

ing Creighton 63-55 in their first game in 21 days. UConn has "six and a half players" who can play in that game, as Piath Gabriel is not available, Amari DeBerry isn't ready and Mühl is back, albeit on a minutes restriction. Afterward, Auriemma switches up the starting five, inserting Mühl and bringing Westbrook off the bench for the first time in her UConn career. The Huskies play some of their best basketball of the season in the next two games against Butler and Xavier.

Griffin officially out: On Jan. 9, Auriemma reveals Griffin will likely be out for the season as she undergoes back surgery. The school makes this official later that week. UConn's roster now down to 11 players, including the rehabbing Bueckers, who is expected to return this season.

Williams gets COVID-19, team loses big to Oregon: An hour before UConn is set to play Oregon, the program announces Williams is in COVID-19 protocols. Three games following Mühl's return, UConn is once more down to three guards. The Huskies get crushed by Oregon, 72-59, trailing by at least 20 much of the second half. Two of UConn's four losses have come in the first game without key players (Bueckers/Mühl at Georgia Tech, Williams at Oregon). Oregon is ranked No. 19 in the AP poll.

Scheduling switch up: UConn and South Carolina agree to cancel their rematch scheduled for Jan. 27 in Columbia; instead, the Huskies travel to Chicago to take on DePaul and the Gamecocks play conference foe Ole Miss.

Williams, Fudd return: Williams returns against DePaul after missing three games, and Fudd makes an unexpected return. The pair combine for 32 points in a great team win at DePaul, sealed by Ducharme's layup with 1.6 seconds remaining. With five of his six guards back, this is the healthiest roster Auriemma has had since November.

Juhász out: UConn is down a player once more, as Juhász misses the Providence game with what Auriemma indicated is a stress reaction in a foot. Juhász had started the last 10 games and is one of three post players who get significant minutes. UConn starts its sixth unique lineup in 17 games in its 69-61 win over the Friars.

Juhász is considered day-to-day, but Auriemma isn't able to provide a timeline for how long she'd be out.

What this all means: UConn's problems this season go beyond these personnel issues. Consistency has been hard to come by, both individually and collectively. Turnovers and offensive flow remain issues, and the team's defense has been exposed at times.

Injuries/absences aren't the root cause of all these problems. And it's fair to say that even without Bueckers running the show, UConn should be playing better than it is.

Either way, having so many players in and out of the rotation certainly prevents the Huskies from solidifying their team chemistry and identity. While Fudd's return is welcomed, she's now trying to figure out college basketball in February instead of December.

The central message internally has been to just keep pushing through together.

"When you're going through hell, keep going. You can't stop. You stop, you die. But you can't go by yourself, because then you're going to leave others behind," Auriemma said after the St. John's game. "We're going through a bad spot, but we're finding a way to drag each other along with us. So we've become more of a team, I think, in the last two weeks."

And maybe, just maybe, when all is said and done, the team could be better off for it.

"I feel like this team has gone through so much, and we're prepared for what's been thrown at us all season. I feel like we can conquer anything," Williams said Sunday. "That just shows what kind of team we have and what kind of people we have. One man goes down, another man just has to step up. And that's just life in general. Things are going to happen, and we know that we've just got to keep moving forward the best that we can."

Did you know?

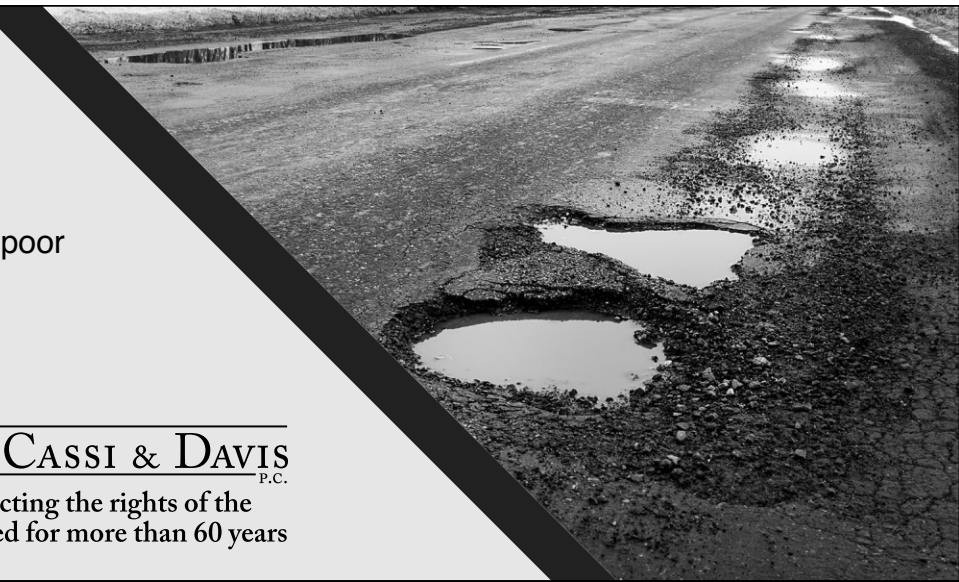
The areas most prone to pothole development are where drainage is poor, where vehicular traffic is greatest, and where poor maintenance allows small fissures to deteriorate.

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NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

Robinson plaque serves as ‘reminder’

A plaque honoring baseball legend Jackie Robinson that was vandalized in Georgia is coming to Kansas City’s Negro Leagues Baseball Museum to be put on display. The sign was erected in 2001 outside the birthplace of Robinson near Cairo, Georgia. Community members there discovered last year that someone had shot the plaque multiple times. Curator and museum vice president Ray Doswell told the Kansas City Star that displaying the defaced marker is an opportunity to teach the public about Robinson’s story and combat hate. Robinson broke Major League Baseball’s color barrier in 1947 when he became the league’s first Black player. Robinson’s hometown replaced the damaged marker, with help from the league, and added another marker at a library last week. The vandalized marker is slated to go on display around mid-April to coincide with the museum’s celebration of the 75th anniversary of Robinson’s debut with the Dodgers. The plaque is expected to be permanently loaned to the Kansas City museum for regular display. Museum community engagement manager Kiona Sinks said in a tweet that the vandalized marker will “serve as a reminder that the ugliness of America’s past persists to this day.”

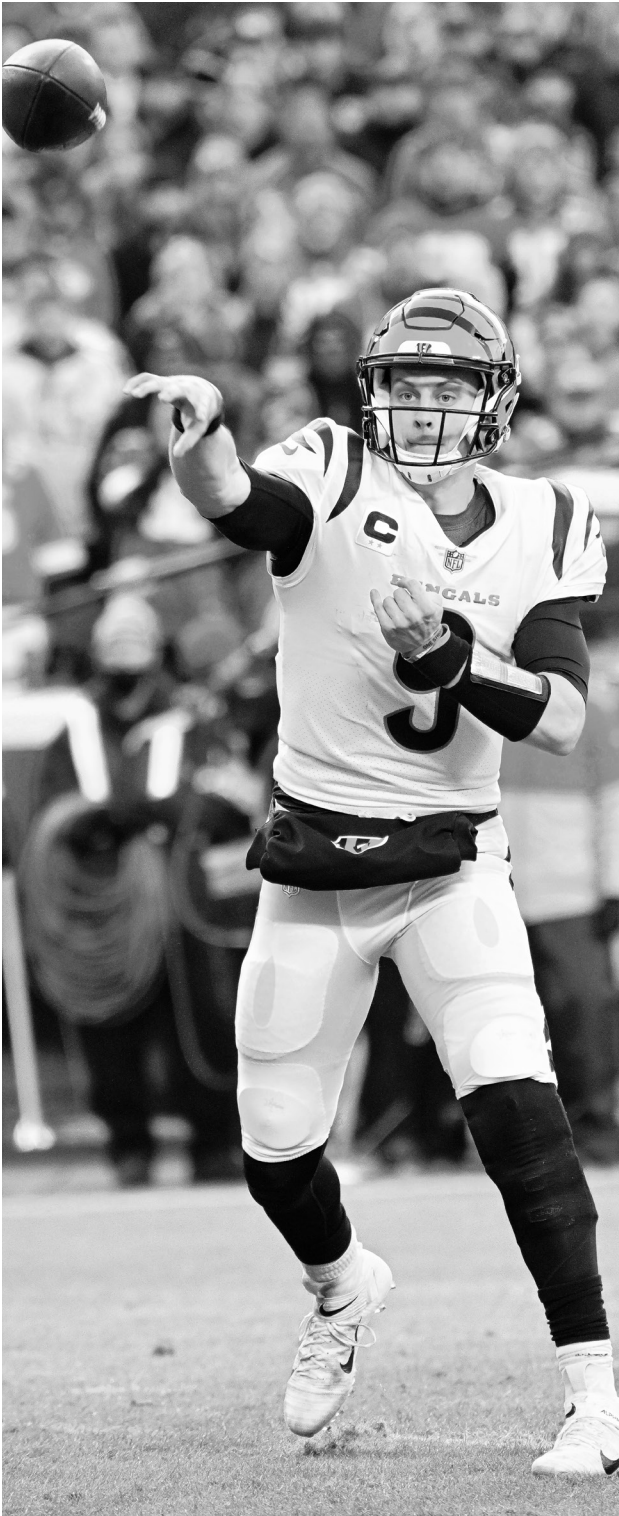
Garoppolo: We’ll see what happens



The last pass Jimmy Garoppolo threw in Sunday’s NFC championship game — a loss-sealing interception — perfectly epitomized what will likely be his final season with the 49ers. Time was running out. The pressure was inescapable. The world watched and waited for Garoppolo to make the mistake that would cause his downfall and clear the way for the Trey Lance era. That’s precisely what happened in the 20-17 loss to the Rams. It was the end of the season for the 49ers and probably the end of an era. Garoppolo was 31-15 as a starter over the last five seasons with the 49ers. The team made two trips to the NFC championship game and one Super Bowl appearance, but Lance, the No. 3 pick in the 2021 draft, is expected to take over as the team’s starting quarterback next season. All indications are that the 49ers will try to trade the 30-year-old Garoppolo. “(The emotions) hit pretty hard in the locker room,” he said after Sunday’s loss. “I think these next couple of days it will really start to settle in a little bit. ... We’ll see what happens in these next couple days, weeks, but I love this team.”

Eriksen’s comeback starts in London

With a thumbs up to the camera, Christian Eriksen revealed his new team and planned return to playing — almost eight months after having a cardiac arrest on the field at the European Championship. “I’m happy to announce that I’ve signed for Brentford Football Club,” Eriksen said in Monday’s social media video. “I can’t wait to get started.” It will be a remarkable playing comeback to the English Premier League for the Denmark playmaker, who has said he was essentially dead for five minutes after collapsing in the opening Euro game against Finland. Eriksen signed with Brentford until the end of the season and secured a return to England, where he played with Tottenham until joining Inter Milan two years ago and winning the Serie A title. Eriksen’s contract with Inter Milan was terminated by mutual agreement in December since Italian regulations prevented him from playing with the implantable cardioverter-defibrillator that was fitted. The 29-year-old Eriksen is being reunited with Thomas Frank, the Brentford manager who coached him when playing for Denmark Under-17s. He will also be the ninth Dane in the club’s squad. Eriksen is set to fly to London this week but not immediately train with Brentford. —News services



Joe Burrow, left, missed six games as a rookie in 2020, but is healthy now and has the surprising Bengals in the Super Bowl. AP Matthew Stafford, in his first season with the Rams after 12 with the lowly Lions, finally is enjoying postseason success. GETTY



SUPER BOWL 56 THE QUARTERBACKS

Opposites go together

Different paths, but Burrow, Stafford to face off for title

By Barry Wilner
Associated Press

Matthew Stafford and Joe Burrow had almost nothing in common before Sunday except that they were top overall picks in the NFL draft. Now, they’re both Super Bowl quarterbacks. Their journeys are almost polar opposites since each left an SEC powerhouse. Stafford was the first selection in the 2009 draft out of Georgia and then spent a dozen years trying not to get pummeled in Detroit. Always considered a good player on a bad team — the Lions are that rare franchise that existed when the Super Bowl was created but never has been to it — Stafford was rescued by the Rams last year. In his first season as their QB, he’s helped them to the big game, his connection with unanimous All-Pro receiver Cooper Kupp something very special. And seemingly unstoppable. “Couldn’t be more grateful for Matthew Stafford,” coach Sean McVay said after Stafford went 31 of 45 for 337 yards with two TD passes in the 20-17 victory over the 49ers for the NFC title. To say Stafford is a vast improvement over Jared Goff, the No. 1 overall choice in 2016, is too obvious. Stafford has a better arm, better technique, a better handle for pressure — statistically, he’s the top NFL passer against blitzes — and, simply, better command of the most important position on the field. Yes, Goff got to the Super Bowl

with the Rams in 2018, when they lost to the Patriots with a wretched offensive performance. But Stafford in a lot of ways took the Rams to the big game rather than being along for the ride. “You can’t write the story any better,” Stafford said. “I’m at a loss for words. I’m just having a blast playing ball with these guys and, shoot, we’ve got one more at the home stadium. “Let’s get it done.” The Rams (15-5) have blasted right into the Super Bowl in two weeks, when for the second straight year after it never occurred in the 54 previous editions, they will host it in their stadium. The Buccaneers turned that trick last season. With the weapons on offense (Kupp and Odell Beckham Jr., most notably) and stars on defense such as unanimous All-Pro tackle Aaron Donald and linebacker Von Miller, a 2015 NFL champion with the Broncos, Stafford is in excellent position to turn his first season in L.A. into a Lombardi Trophy celebration. But he’ll have to get by Burrow, in just his second pro season, and the Bengals (13-7). Like Stafford, Burrow went to a struggling franchise. Oh, the Bengals made the playoffs often enough in this century. They just bungled their way to seven consecutive postseason defeats under Marvin Lewis. When the Bengals went 2-14 in 2019 while Burrow was winning a national championship and setting records at LSU, it was an easy choice in the draft. Still, his knee injury after 10 games (2-7-1 as a starter) seemed so appropriate for the Bengals. Another potentially good thing gone wrong.

Super Bowl 56
Bengals (13-7) vs.
Rams (15-5)
6:30 p.m. Feb. 13, NBC

Except so much has gone right in the last month, and here Burrow is, guiding the team to its first Super Bowl appearance in 33 years. The injured good thing has turned into a healthy sure thing, with the brightest of futures. “I wouldn’t call it surreal, I would say it’s exciting,” Burrow said. “I think if you would have told me before the season that we’d be going to the Super Bowl, I probably would have called you crazy. Then, you know, we play the whole season and nothing surprises me now.” It’s never surprising when a surpassing talent like a Burrow succeeds in the NFL. But it’s also not shocking when one like Stafford languishes in a bad situation. Take a look at quarterbacks who were first overall selections and you get Peyton and Eli Manning, but you also get David Carr and JaMarcus Russell. For every John Elway, there’s a Sam Bradford. Going further back, there’s a Troy Aikman in 1989 and a Jeff George in 1990. No matter what happens at SoFi Stadium on Feb. 13, consider this: Only once before have two overall No. 1 drafted QBs met in a Super Bowl, six years ago when Peyton and the Broncos beat Cam Newton and the Panthers. Either the long journey of Stafford or the quicker trip for Burrow will end with hoisting the Lombardi Trophy — exactly what top draftees are supposed to accomplish.

WINTER OLYMPICS PREVIEW

Bobsled

By Tim Reynolds
Associated Press

At the last Olympics, Kaillie Humphries was Canadian and women’s bobsledders had just one chance to win medals. A few things have changed over the last four years. Humphries holds American citizenship now, and she’ll be competing in two events — not one — at the Beijing Games in February, with this set to become the first Olympics where monobob is included in the medal program. And the three-time medalist is looking for more. “The sole focus is on February,” Humphries said. With good reason. Olympic gold is what drives her, and most bobsledders, like nothing else. The longtime star of the Canadian bobsled team began sliding for the Americans three seasons ago, needing a lengthy legal and administrative fight just to get a U.S. passport in time to compete in these Olympics. She got it, with just a few weeks to spare. Now, she has a chance at double medals. The women have their customary two-person event, plus monobob — just a driver in the sled, no brakeman — is a huge chance for some of the best pilots in the world to enhance their Olympic legacies. Humphries is the reigning world champion and fellow U.S. driver Elana Meyers Taylor has been arguably the best monobobber in the world this season. But here’s more proof that it’s all about Beijing: Meyers Taylor — also a three-time Olympic medalist, one of those coming as a push athlete — skipped a monobob race a few weeks ago, thinking more about long-term goals than short-term gains. “I really need to preserve my body, and I know I have to take it easy sometimes,” Meyers Taylor said. It’ll be the usual suspects who enter the Beijing Games as medal favorites. The U.S. could get as many as four of the six medals awarded in women’s races. And on the men’s side, it’s all about Germany — which means it’s all about Francesco Friedrich. The double-gold winner from the Pyeongchang Games — he shared the two-man title there with Canada’s Justin Kripps — is the overwhelming favorite to win double gold again at these Olympics. Nobody has ever swept both men’s events in back-to-back Olympics; Germany’s Andre Lange came closest, winning four-man golds in 2002 and 2006, plus two-man golds in 2006 and 2010. His dominance has been unmatched in the sport’s history: seven consecutive world championships in two-man, four consecutive world championships in four-man, and since the Pyeongchang Games he’s won an absurd 82% of his international races. A three-week training stint in China this fall showed Friedrich what he has to do there to be successful in February, and his confidence is high. “We feel great,” Friedrich said. “We had a good time there, three weeks. We know the track. We only have to learn the Olympic village. But I think it’s all in good shape for the Olympics.”



Americans Kaillie Humphries and Sylvia Hoffman race to a third-place finish in a World Cup two-person bobsled race last month in Germany. CAROLINE SEIDEL/DPA VIA AP

Looking for 6

The U.S. bobsled team is seeking to win a medal for the sixth consecutive Olympics, and frankly, it’d be a complete disaster if the Americans didn’t get at least one. A medal in six games in a row would tie the longest such streak in U.S. Olympic bobsled history; it also happened in six straight from 1928 through 1956. Switzerland has the record for medal streaks in bobsled, winning one in 11 consecutive Olympics from 1968 through 2006.

Mind the gap

Britain has only five Olympic bobsled medals and hasn’t had an on-track medal celebration since 1998; the four-man medal won in 2014 was awarded years later after the British were promoted to bronze following the disqualification of Russian sleds in a doping scandal. But Brad Hall — Bobsleigh Brad, he goes by on social media — has been a contender just about every week in World Cup races this season, and he looks like a legit challenger in both two- and four-man for Beijing.

Past results

The International Bobsled and Skeleton Federation had sanctioned races — not World Cups, but real races under real conditions — this fall when sliders had their long training stint at the Beijing track. Friedrich won both the two- and four-man races, while Germany’s Laura Nolte was the winner in the women’s race, and another German, Mariama Jamanka, won the monobob event. Jamanka was the women’s gold medalist at the Pyeongchang Games.

WEATHER

TUESDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Mostly sunny and seasonable. Northeast wind becoming east around 5 mph.

HIGH 35°
LOW 25°

WEDNESDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Considerable cloudiness and milder.

HIGH 42°
LOW 33°

THURSDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Mostly cloudy, chance for showers.

HIGH 43°
LOW 33°

FRIDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Periods of rain. It may turn over to sleet and freezing rain, breezy.

HIGH 36°
LOW 11°

SATURDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Mostly sunny, breezy and cold.

HIGH 25°
LOW 2°

CONNECTICUTWEATHER

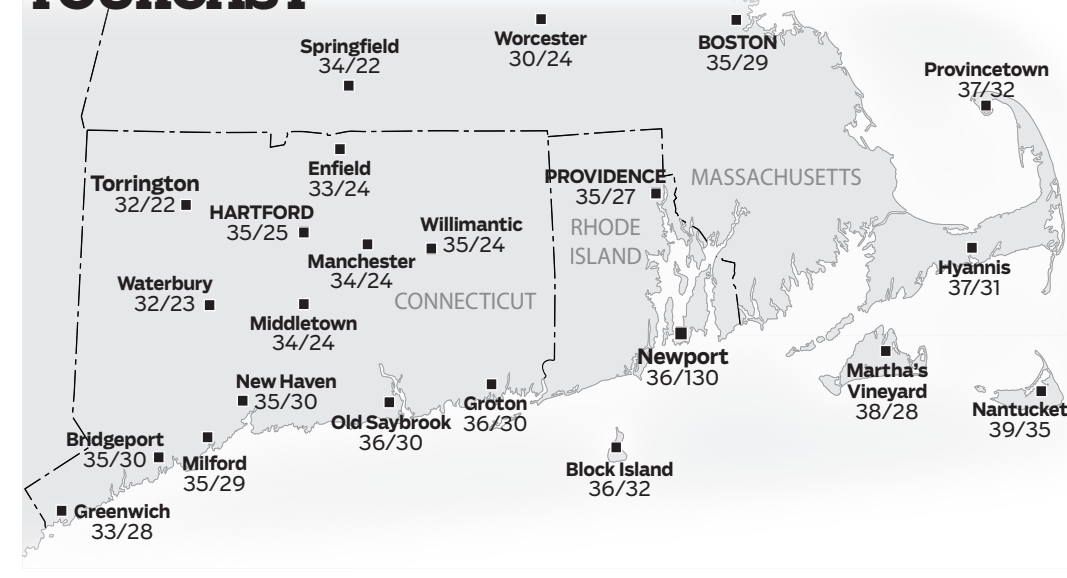
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YOURCAST

Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



OUTLOOK

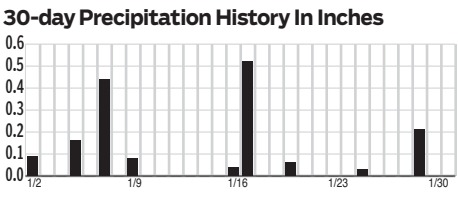
We have had daylight increase 54 minutes from the shortest day of the year in December, but the next week or so will show there is still a while to go in the winter season. Yes, it will be milder through Thursday, but a storm system on Friday could toss us back into the middle of winter with the potential for rain to turn into an extensive period of mixed precipitation. If it ends up occurring, Saturday's snowstorm may not seem so bad. Arctic air will settle into the region this weekend. On a brighter note, the National Weather Service is calling for temperatures in February to be above normal.

-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches	Total	Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.00	0.10
Month to date	1.83	3.28
Total this year	1.83	3.28
Snowfall In Inches		
Yesterday (by 4 p.m.)	0.0	0.5
Total this year	18.4	26.4

Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks



Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	9:06 a.m.	3:06 a.m.	35°
	9:29 p.m.	3:49 p.m.	
Saybrook Jetty	10:17 a.m.	3:59 a.m.	34°
	10:40 p.m.	4:42 p.m.	
Connecticut River at Portland	12:32 a.m.	7:45 a.m.	
at Portland	1:00 p.m.	8:28 p.m.	
Madison	10:40 a.m.	4:22 a.m.	33°
	11:10 p.m.	4:59 p.m.	
New Haven	11:00 a.m.	4:46 a.m.	33°
	11:30 p.m.	5:23 p.m.	
Stamford	11:04 a.m.	5:00 a.m.	35°
	11:34 p.m.	5:37 p.m.	

River Stage at Hartford: 4.07 feet at 6:30 p.m.

Boating Weather	L.I. Sound W	L.I. Sound E	B.I. Sound
	P Cloudy	P Cloudy	P Cloudy
Wind	E, 10-15	E, 10-15	E, 10-15
Seas	1-2 ft.	2-3 ft.	2-4 ft.

Air Quality Forecast For Today

Good 50

Low 2

1°

Air Quality Today

Ultraviolet Index Today

Wind Chill Today

Today

Tomorrow

Sunrise 7:03 a.m.

Sunset 5:05 p.m.

Moonrise 7:46 a.m.

Moonset 5:39 p.m.

7:02 a.m.

5:06 p.m.

8:20 a.m.

6:54 p.m.

Moon Phase

First Feb 8

Full Feb 16

Last Feb 23

New Mar 2

Temperature	High	Low
Monday	29 at 3:10 p.m.	-2 at 7:14 a.m.
Normal for date	36	18
Record for date	61 in 2013	-12 in 1948
A year ago	21	1
Range this year	52	-2

Heating Degree Days

Season	Normal	Last Season
For July 1 - Jan 31	3054	3343
	3066	

30-day Temperature History

Atmosphere High 30.42 at 7 p.m. Low 30.18 at 12 a.m.

Barometer 6° at 5 p.m. -8° at 6 a.m.

Dew point

AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND Bangor 26 14 PC Burlington 33 28 PC Caribou 16 13 S Concord 32 19 PC Montpelier 27 18 PC Mt. Wash. 16 12 PC Portland 31 23 PC Woods Hole 37 27 PC NATION Albany 34 22 S Albuquerque 51 33 PC Atlantic City 41 25 PC Baltimore 40 25 PC Bismarck 11 -10 PC Boise 31 14 PC Buffalo 38 31 PC Charleston 64 42 S Cincinnati 52 39 PC Cleveland 48 36 PC Indianapolis 51 35 PC Jacksonville 68 47 S Las Vegas 61 40 PC Miami Beach 73 58 PC Milwaukee 41 16 PC Nashville 64 46 PC New Orleans 70 61 SH New York 35 33 PC Okla. City 61 27 C Omaha 41 8 PC Orlando 74 53 PC Pittsburgh 43 30 PC Raleigh 49 31 PC Salt Lake City 34 20 PC San Antonio 74 55 PC San Diego 61 51 C San Juan 84 73 PC Tucson 67 46 C Buenos Aires 84 72 PC Cairo 65 49 PC Cancun 80 70 PC Dubai 75 63 PC Edinburgh 53 44 C Helsinki 23 12 C Hong Kong 59 57 SH Istanbul 48 45 R Jerusalem 50 43 PC Johannesburg 82 63 S Singapore 93 75 SH Stockholm 24 22 PC Sydney 88 68 SH Tel Aviv 62 43 PC Tokyo 50 36 S Toronto 39 34 S Vancouver 43 28 S Warsaw 32 30 SF Chicago 42/20/C Minneapolis 22/-4/C Denver 29/10/C Kansas City 4/6/15/C Dallas 67/52/C Houston 70/53/C Tampa 72/56/PC Miami 75/64/PC Detroit 39/32/PC Philadelphia 39/29/C Washington D.C. 44/32/PC Lebanon 33/19/PC	WORLD Amsterdam 50 43 R Athens 63 43 C Bangkok 93 75 R Barbados 84 70 S Beijing 37 19 S Beirut 63 51 C Berlin 39 37 SH Bermuda 66 59 PC Copenhagen 50 43 PC Cairo 65 49 PC Cancun 80 70 PC Dubai 75 63 PC Edinburgh 53 44 C Helsinki 23 12 C Hong Kong 59 57 SH Istanbul 48 45 R Jerusalem 50 43 PC Johannesburg 82 63 S Singapore 93 75 SH Stockholm 24 22 PC Sydney 88 68 SH Tel Aviv 62 43 PC Tokyo 50 36 S Toronto 39 34 S Vancouver 43 28 S Warsaw 32 30 SF
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MONDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

BOYS BASKETBALL

CCC-North	WINDSOR 104, ROCKY HILL 38
WINDSOR (10-1):	Quintin Floyd 3-0-7, Raymond Rodriguez 5-1-11, Rashawn Tibby 6-2-14, Tyler Betsey 10-0-22, Tone Williams 3-2-8, Brandon Rosemond 3-0-6, Kaiden James 7-0-15, Jakeel Martin 4-0-8, Jonathan Georges 4-1-9, Jonathan Prince 2-0-4. Totals 45-6-104.
ROCKY HILL (0-14):	Yazdan Aftab 2-0-4, Tyler Carlstrom 1-0-2, Shiv Ghutadaria 2-0-4, Jayden Osei-Tutu 6-2-14, Casey Robinson 1-1-4, Jonathan Ruiz 1-0-2, Jayden Veal 2-0-4, Jake Polites 2-0-4. Totals 17-3-38.
W RH	20 28 20 36 - 104 8 12 7 9 - 38
HARTFORD PUBLIC 55, WETHERSFIELD 53	
NEW BRITAIN 72, BLOOMFIELD 62	
NEWINGTON 58, BULKELEY 34	
CCC-South	BRISTOL CENTRAL 79, PLATT 48
PLATT (9-4):	Justin Black 2-1-7, Juan Dancy 3-0-7, Anthony Nimani 9-3-22, Elijah Rodriguez 1-0-2, Makhai Anderson 4-0-10. Totals 19-4-48.
BRISTOL CENTRAL (13-0):	Victor Rosa 4-0-9, Damion Glasper 4-0-10, Zach Vanasse 1-0-2, Mason Stokes 0-1-1, Harrison Ross 0-1-1, Jelani Walton 1-0-2, Carson Rivoira 2-1-5, Donovan Clinegan 21-4-47, Julius Powell 1-0-2. Totals 34-7-79.
P BC	16 3 14 15 - 48 25 22 23 9 - 79
Note:	Clingan's 47 points set a new school single-game record. Had also had a double-double with 26 rebounds.
MIDDLETOWN 71, PLAINVILLE 33	
CCC-East	EAST HARTFORD 60, E.O. SMITH 50
EAST HARTFORD (8-6):	Favour Okeke 3-3-15, Elijah Serrano 3-6-13, Zander Robinson 1-0-3, Chris Lomax 2-0-4, David Pardo 3-0-6, Dom Laduca 6-2-15, Justin Viotrin 2-0-4. Totals 23-8-60.
E.O. SMITH (5-7):	Dar Jankovic 1-3-5, Peter Elumogo 6-4-16, Jackson Stearns 3-1-7, Leon Lin 3-2-10, Noah Cordone 4-4-12. Totals 16-14-50.
EH EOS	9 17 22 12 - 60 9 8 11 22 - 50
EAST CATHOLIC 85, RHAM 46	
NCCC	GRANBY 52, EAST WINDSOR 46
GRANBY (10-3):	Justin Phillips 6-3-16, Josh Brown 3-4-12, Liam Heinze 7-1-17, Jack Steele 2-0-5, Max Jansen 0-2-2. Totals 18-10-52.
EAST WINDSOR (1-9):	Ryan Lee 4-1-11, Josh Maddox 5-2-14, Eric Wyse 2-0-6, Nick Parakilas 1-0-2, Justin Rodriguez 3-1-8, Juelz Torres 2-0-5. Totals 17-4-46.
G EW	13 14 7 18 - 52 8 13 14 11 - 46
Shoreline	OLD LYME 41, COGINCHAUG 34
SCC	XAVIER 53, SHEEHAN 34
HAND 63, LYMAN HALL 44	
CRAL	ACHIEVEMENT FIRST 62, MLC 26

GIRLS BASKETBALL

CCC-North	WETHERSFIELD 36, HARTFORD PUBLIC 29
WETHERSFIELD (7-5):	Sophie Adams 1-1-3, Vanessa Venditti 2-3-9, Olivia Barnett 1-0-2, Bella Tomaino 1-0-2, Alison Wagner 2-0-4, Ella Agler 1-0-3, Mackenzie Mori 5-0-11. Totals 13-4-36.
HARTFORD PUBLIC (4-11):	Ty Mercado 1-2-5, Gigi Perry 3-0-7, Shakera Morris 1-0-2, Mari Figueroa 4-0-8, T'Shyra Morrison 2-1-5, Tiffany Crawford 1-0-2. Totals 12-3-29.
W HP	5 13 9 9 - 36 7 6 7 9 - 29
WINDSOR 77, ROCKY HILL 45	
CCC-Inter	AVON 57, PLAINVILLE 34
PLAINVILLE (11-12):	Lilly Wazorko 3-6-14, Cassiane Montanez 1-2-4, Elyse Brown 2-1-5, Sami Thompson 4-3-11. Totals 10-11-34.
AVON (4-9):	Sophie Mango 4-2-10, Lindsey Arigoni 2-0-5, Erin Geary 1-0-2, Adi Standish 7-0-14, Sophia DiBella 2-0-4, Gianna Godbout 5-0-15, Lucy Belval 2-0-4, Katelyn Cifaldi 1-1-3. Totals 24-3-57.
P A	3 7 15 9 - 34 17 7 18 15 - 57
NCCC	BOLTON 40, STAFFORD 31

STAFFORD (8-4):	Camden Smith 6-0-14, Andrea Moulton 1-0-3, Jaelyn Moulton 1-0-3, Drea Oswell 1-0-2, Raino Caro 4-0-9. Totals 13-0-31.
BOLTON (7-3):	Emma Diehl 3-1-7, Niya Islam 2-2-7, Isabel Kenney 4-0-10, Makenna Graves 30-6, Julia Zimmerman 4-2-10. Totals 16-5-40.
B S	7 12 11 10 - 40 8 7 8 8 - 31
Note:	Diehl and Zimmerman each had 8rebounds for Bolton. Smith had a double-double with 12rebounds, 3 assists for Stafford.
GRANBY 51, EAST WINDSOR 21	
Shoreline	NORTH BRANFORD 67, VALLEY REGIONAL 56
VALLEY REGIONAL (11-1):	Ava Cunningham 1-1-3, Abby Bradbury 4-11-22, Bitzy Klomp 1-0-2, Liz Allen 1-0-3, Olivia Cunningham 2-0-4, Lily Grow 7-8-22. Totals 16-20-56.
NORTH BRANFORD (11-5):	Callie Holzer 8-8-30, Braeden LeBeau 9-3-21, Keana Criscuolo 3-4-12, Natalia Lucibello 1-0-2, Marissa Ricardo 1-0-2. Totals 22-15-67.
VR NB	13 5 22 16 - 56 13 15 25 14 - 67
OLD LYME 45, COGINCHAUG 42	
COGINCHAUG (5-7):	Hannah Nielsen 3-0-6, Sophie Farr 2-0-4, Serena Fournier 1-0-2, Katie Farr 3-0-6, Alyssa Woodward 2-1-5, Mia Poturnicki 3-2-8, Chloe Shafrir 4-2-11. Totals 18-5-42.
OLD LYME (7-6):	Ava Roth 2-0-4, Kate Walsh 2-2-6, Ali Kyle 0-0-0, Alexis Fenton 10-0-22, Megan Loflin 3-7-13. Totals 17-9-45.
C OL	6 12 10 14 - 42 11 17 10 7 - 45
CRAL	WEAVER 55, UNIVERSITY 15
SCC	CHESHIRE 60, LAURALTON HALL 51
SHELTON 44, LYMAN HALL 37	

Others	NEWINGTON 64, CROMWELL 44
NEWINGTON (15-1):	Lily Ferguson 4-4-12, Karissa Zocco 2-0-6, Adriana Romano 3-0-6, Selah Prignano 1-0-2, Bella Cucuta 5-1-15, Marlie Zocco 4-0-10, Kendall Miller 4-2-13. Totals 23-7-64.
CROMWELL (9-2):	Grace Mikan 2-0-6, Cameryn Hickey 3-1-7, Jessica Grodzicki 4-1-9, Nevaeh Clark 5-0-13, Adela Cecunjanin 2-5-9. Totals 16-7-44.
N C	14 11 24 15 - 64 20 12 5 7 - 44
Note:	Miller had a double-double with 11rebounds, 4steals and Ferguson had 8rebounds, 4assists for Newington. Cecunjanin had 12rebounds, 4assists, 4 blocks for Cromwell.
BACON ACADEMY 53, AMISTAD 38	
COVENTRY 55, LYMAN MEMORIAL 45	

BOYS HOCKEY

Others	ENFIELD CO-OP 4, BBD 2
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TUESDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

ALL GAMES AT 6:45 P.M. UNLESS NOTED

BOYS BASKETBALL

CCC-South:	Maloney at Bristol Eastern; Berlin at Lewis Mills
CCC-West:	Glastonbury at Avon; Farmington at Simsbury; Northwest Catholic at Conard; Southington at Hall
NCCC:	SMSA at Canton; Somers at Windsor Locks; HMTCA at East Granby; Rockville at Coventry; Bolton at Ellington; Stafford at Suffield
Shoreline:	East Hampton at Morgan, 7p.m.; Portland at Westbrook, 7p.m.; Haddam-Killingworth at Cromwell, 7p.m.; Hale-Ray at Old Saybrook, 7p.m.
CTC:	Windham Tech at Vinal Tech, 5:30p.m.; Grasso Tech at Goodwin Tech, 5:30p.m.; Wilcox Tech at Wright Tech, 6p.m.; Norwich Tech at Prince Tech, 6 p.m.; Ellis Tech at Cheney Tech, 6:30p.m.
CRAL:	Weaver at Innovation, 5p.m.; Achievement First at Civic Leadership, 5:30p.m.; Aerospace at Classical, 7p.m.
SCC:	East Haven at Lyman Hall, 7p.m.
ECC:	Montville at Windham, 7p.m.; Bacon Academy at NFA, 7p.m.
NVL:	Holy Cross at St. Paul, 7p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL	
CCC-South:	Bristol Eastern at Maloney, 4:30p.m.; Bristol Central at Platt, 6p.m.; Lewis Mills at Berlin; Middletown at Plainville
CCC-West:	Conard at Northwest Catholic, 5:15p.m.;

Hall at Southington; Simsbury at Farmington; Avon at Glastonbury	
NCCC:	Canton at SMSA, 5:15p.m.; East Granby at HMTCA, 5:15p.m.; Ellington at Bolton, 6p.m.; Windsor Locks at Somers; Coventry at Rockville; Suffield at Stafford
Shoreline:	Westbrook at Portland, 6p.m.; Morgan at East Hampton, 7p.m.; Cromwell at Haddam-Killingworth, 7p.m.; Old Saybrook at Hale-Ray, 7p.m.
CTC:	Prince Tech at Norwich Tech, 4p.m.; Goodwin Tech at Grasso Tech, 4:30p.m.; Vinal Tech at Windham Tech, 5:30p.m.; Wright Tech at Wilcox Tech, 6p.m.; Cheney Tech at Ellis Tech, 6p.m.
CRAL:	Achievement First at Weaver, 4p.m.; Aerospace at Capital Prep, 4p.m.; Civic Leadership at Parish Hall, 5:30p.m.; Innovation at MLC, 6:30p.m.
ECC:	Windham at Lyman Memorial, 7p.m.
NVL:	St. Paul at Holy Cross, 6:30p.m.

WRESTLING

SCC:	New Haven at Cheshire, 6p.m.; Xavier at Guilford, 6:30p.m.
Others:	Old Lyme at RHAM, 6p.m.

TRACK AND FIELD

Others: Last Chance Meet (Bethel HS), 4p.m.

BOYS SWIMMING

CCC-North:	Wethersfield at Rocky Hill, 3:45p.m.; E.O. Smith/Tolland at Hartford Public, 4p.m.
CCC-South:	Bristol co-op at Lewis Mills, 3:45p.m.; Middletown at Plainville, 4p.m.; Bulkeley/HMTCA at Platt/Maloney, 4p.m.
CCC-East:	East Catholic at Enfield, 3:45p.m.; South Windsor at East Hartford, 3:45p.m.; Manchester/RHAM at Windsor, 4p.m.
SCC:	Cheshire, Sheehan at Hamden, 4p.m.; Foran/Law at Lyman Hall/Coginchaug, 5p.m.
Others:	Amity at Glastonbury, 5p.m.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

CCC:	South Windsor at Wethersfield, 5p.m.; Farmington at Glastonbury, 7:15p.m.
SCC:	Hand, Hamden at Law, 6p.m.

SUNDAY'S LATE COLLEGE RESULTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

ST. JOSEPH 81, REGIS 56

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

UCONN 69, PROVIDENCE 61

MONDAY'S COLLEGE RESULTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

HARTFORD 78, MAINE 66

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

EASTERN 66, CASTLETON 51

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

AMHERST 2, WESLEYAN 1
SACRED HEART 3, POST 2

TUESDAY'S COLLEGE SCHEDULE

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Colby at Trinity, 4:30p.m.
Creighton at UConn (XL), 6:30p.m.
Dean at St. Joseph, 7p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

St. Peter's at Fairfield, 1p.m.
Dean at St. Joseph, 5p.m.

MEN'S HOCKEY

RIT at Sacred Heart, 2p.m.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Amherst at Wesleyan, 7p.m.



Property of the Week

SUNDAYS IN CTHOME & Real Estate

Hartford Courant